

Getting Into a Good Writing Routine Worksheet

This is the worksheet for September's seminar, which you can find in audio and transcript forms at: www.writershuddle.com/seminars/sept2012

Key Points from the Seminar

Routines are individual: we all have different ways of working. Someone else's ideal routine might not be at all right for you.

Place

The place where you write matters. It needs to be somewhere you can easily focus – not where you're constantly distracted.

Some writers have a home office (or a garden shed) – others write in coffee shops, libraries, or even parks. You might try writing in your workplace, perhaps during your lunch break.

Time

Many writers like to write first thing in the morning, or last thing at night – their imagination is strongest then. But it's up to you when you write.

You can write in short or long sessions – experiment and see which you prefer.

The Writing Mood

You might like to try:

- Working with music on ... or in silence.
- Switching off your internet connection.
- Trying out different types of writing software, like [Scrivener](#) or [DarkRoom](#) (which offer a full-screen writing environment).
- Having a writing warm-up, perhaps using a prompt.

Motivation vs Self-Discipline

Don't push yourself too hard: writing is something to enjoy, not another chore. Have a reason to write – a goal you're working towards. Let others know about your writing, so you're accountable to them: this can be very motivating.

You might want to try a “minimum target” – e.g. you commit to writing for at least 10 minutes every Saturday afternoon (even if your real aim is to write for two hours). This can help you get going.

Your Writing Matters

Writing is important – creativity and self-expression aren't luxuries that you need to put off until you've done all the dishes. Treat your writing as though it truly matters, and the people around you will learn to do the same.

Exercise

Try something new with your writing routine this week. For instance:

- Write in a new place, e.g. your local library
- Write at a different time of day, e.g. during your lunch hour
- Start your writing session in a different way, perhaps with a prompt

Further Reading

[How Routines Save \(and Ruin\) Your Writing](#), K.M Weiland, Wordplay

A good look at the pros and cons of routines.

[Writers' Routines](#)

A great look at various famous writers' routines.

[On Track Module #3: Your Perfect Writing Routine](#) (Writer's Huddle course)

Find your best writing time of day, decide how to set good targets, and think about the pros and cons of short vs long writing sessions.