

The Writing Process from Start to End Worksheet

This is the worksheet for February's seminar, which you can find in audio and transcript forms at: www.writershuddle.com/seminars/feb2013.

Key Points from the Seminar

The writing process is a standard way of breaking down the activities that go into a piece of writing – from initial inspiration to final publication. The five stages (sometimes given slightly different names) are:

1. Prewriting
2. Writing
3. Revising
4. Editing
5. Publishing

Stage #1: Prewriting

This covers everything that happens before you start the rough draft of your work. You'll need to come up with and develop an idea, and for a work of any length, you'll want a good plan.

A dedicated notebook is a great place to capture and explore ideas. Freewriting and brainstorming can be good ways to develop that idea, before writing a linear outline.

Stage #2: Writing

The writing stage is when you get a rough draft down on paper. It may well have some gaps, inconsistencies, and multiple small errors (with punctuation, spelling, and so on) – that's perfectly normal!

Aim to set aside some quality writing time, perhaps thirty minutes two or three times a week. It might help to write in a cafe, library or park, or anywhere without so many distractions as your home.

Stage #3: Revising

At this stage, you're looking for any big picture changes. You might find the A.R.R.R. acronym helpful:

- Adding – putting in new paragraphs / scenes / chapters
- Rearranging – changing the order of your material
- Removing – cutting out tangents or superfluous sections
- Replacing – using stronger examples, switching characters, etc.

You may want to get feedback from other writers: in your own writing, it's sometimes it's hard to see what's working and what isn't.

Stage #4: Editing

This is when you do your close editing / line editing. Your content should all be firmly in place, so you're looking for problems like spelling mistakes, typos, clumsy sentences and so on.

Don't trust your spell checker to pick up on every mistake. Equally, don't automatically believe your spell checker if it tells you that something's wrong!

Stage #5: Publishing

Once your work is complete, it needs to be published: made available to readers. This stage could take minutes (e.g. putting a blog post online) or take years (e.g. placing a novel with an agent / publisher).

Try not to be afraid of rejection ... and remember there's never going to be a perfect time to publish / self-publish.

Exercise

Which stage do you typically struggle with most? What could you do in future to get through it more easily?

Link

[What it Feels Like When Your Writing is Rejected – and How to Bounce Back](#)