

Creating and Reaching Your Goals Worksheet

This is the worksheet for January's seminar, which you can find in audio and transcript forms at: www.writershuddle.com/seminars/jan2013.

Key Points from the Seminar

Whatever stage you're at in your writing life, setting goals will help you move forwards. It's usually best to create goals that result in finishing something – this helps with motivation.

To increase your chances of achieving your goals:

- Break big goals (“make a living writing”) into smaller ones (“get first paid publication”).
- Use deadlines *if* they help you. If deadlines make you feel pressured, try a different time focus, like *write every Saturday for two hours*.

Problems that Get in the Way of Your Goals

#1: Lack of Time

Time isn't the only factor here – energy is important too. If you have very little time to write, make sure you set small, achievable goals – otherwise it's easy to end up doing no writing at all.

#2: Lack of Support

You might find that your partner / friends / family aren't very supportive of your writing. It's important to connect with other writers, for both practical and emotional support. [The Huddle forums](#) are a great place to begin.

#3: Lack of Confidence

Every writer struggles with a lack of confidence (even if they don't show it). Although this can be a really tough issue to overcome, the best thing you can do is to take action. You'll find your confidence gradually grows over time.

Writers' Huddle Resources

As you work towards your goals, use these resources in the Huddle to help:

The On Track Ecourse

This is for anyone working on a big project (fiction or non-fiction). It's designed to take seven weeks – though you can go as quickly or as slowly as you want. You'll hopefully find the course makes you feel more motivated, and you'll pick up some practical tips for dealing with different stages of your project.

The Seminars

A couple of the seminars deal with quite broad topics:

- **Controlling Your Love/Hate Relationship With Writing (Feb 2012)**
- **Getting Into a Great Writing Routine (Sept 2012)**

Check out the other seminars too: you may find that you've missed one on a specific topic that will help you with your goal. You can find them all on the Seminars archive page (click the Seminars tab).

The Forums

The Writers' Huddle forums are a very friendly, supportive place where you can get advice and encouragement. If you haven't posted there before, or if you haven't visited the forums in a while, do come by!

Exercise

Commit to a writing goal for this year. It can be as big or as small as you want.

Write your goal down – perhaps in your journal, on an index card or Post-it note, or in the forums. You might want to read and post in this forum thread, where Huddlers have been sharing their writing resolutions:

[New Year's \(Writing\) Resolutions](#)