

Summer Challenge, Week 0

Transcript

Hi, I'm Ali Luke, and this is Week 0 of the Huddle's Summer Challenge.

Just in case you've not been following the forum post, the Summer Challenge is six weeks of writing. **The idea is to set yourself a weekly goal.**

We also have a mini-challenge each week that we're all trying to achieve, and that will be something you can incorporate into your writing, or something to do with your writing. It shouldn't take more than 10 minutes at most, so it's not a big extra task, it's just for a bit of fun.

So if you're taking part, your aim each week is to:

- Meet your goal
- Have a go at the challenge
- Let us know in the forum how you got on

To keep things interesting and to keep us motivated, there's a prize! At the end, I'll pull a name out of a hat, so that everyone who has completed 6/6 or 5/6 weeks will be eligible for the prize – which is a \$50 (or your local currency equivalent) Amazon gift voucher.

So that's how it works. This week, there's no writing to do. All you need to do is set a goal and let us know what that is.

I just want to run through three "don'ts" when it comes to setting writing goals here.

#1: Don't Set More Than One Goal

Don't tell us that you're going to write a chapter of your novel *and* a blog post every week. That's not what we're aiming for here. Pick one project, one goal, and do that.

Ideally, you want a goal that can be repeated week after week – so, “write 1,000 words” rather than “write an introduction” one week and “write a conclusion” the next week and “edit everything” the third week and so on. Try to have one goal that you can repeat week after week, just to keep things simple.

#2: Don't Get Carried Away

I have a bit of a tendency to do this. I'll tell myself that I can write a novel in three months flat, and I really can't! It just makes me give up because I know I'm miles away from my goal.

Try to set goals that are maybe a little bit challenging but that are achievable and realistic.

#3: Don't Worry What Other People Are Doing

It might be that you see somebody else with a ridiculously big goal and you feel like yours is puny in comparison – but you don't know what their life is like. It might be that they are retired, and they have a lot of time to write. Maybe they don't have kids, or they don't have a lot of responsibilities beyond their writing and so on.

Set a goal that's realistic for you – and you will know if that goal is one that's significant for you. That's what matters. It doesn't matter what other people are doing. The aim is that we can all support one another in achieving the goals that we've set for ourselves.

So ... all you need to do this week is come on over to the forums and [write in the Week 0 topic what your goal is](#), so that we can cheer you on and keep you accountable.

Next week, on Monday 22nd, we'll begin week one, the first week of writing towards the goal.

Good luck!