# The Essential Steps of the Fiction-Writing Process

If you are curious what the writing and publishing process looks like from a 10,000 foot view, this overview will show you the general pace of fiction and non-fiction book projects. If you ever want future guidance on writing and publishing your book, check out our 16-week program and coaching. Email **connect@westsky.studio** for more information.

# *1.* Ideation & Brainstorming

Simply put: Pay attention. The experiences you have, whether good or bad, can be the greatest source of insight and inspiration when it comes to writing fiction. Brainstorm and explore your big ideas, characters, and plot twists. Keep a notebook or digital file to jot down inspirations as they come.

# 3.

## Drafting

Start writing your first draft! Don't worry about perfection - focus on getting your story onto the page. Some authors write multiple drafts, while others prefer a single, more polished first draft. *Remember: tell the story to yourself first, then refine it for your audience.* 

To the right are popular methods for drafting your first manuscript.

2.

### **Research & Planning**

This phase of any book writing process is as unique as the person writing. Research relevant topics, plan your scenes, and outline your plot (if your brain works that way). Create character profiles and world-building details. This stage helps organize your thoughts and makes the writing process smoother.

### - The Snowflake Method

Start with a one-sentence summary and gradually expand it into paragraphs, character descriptions, and scene outlines.

### - The Three-Act Structure

Organize your story into setup, confrontation, and resolution phases.

### - The "Pantser" Approach

Write without a detailed outline, letting the story unfold organically.

### - The "Plotter" Approach

Mix writing methods and set daily targets. With consistent effort, you could complete a first draft in a month.

# *4.* Revising & Editing

Polish your work through multiple rounds of editing. Hiring a professional editor can really make a difference in turning a manuscript to a publish-ready document.

*Self-editing* Review and revise your work

*Content editing* Address plot holes and story structure

*Line editing* Improve sentence structure and pacing

*Copy editing* Fix grammar, punctuation, and spelling

*Proofreading* Final check for any remaining errors

### 5.

### Formatting & Design

This is when you take your finalized manuscript and design print-ready files.

#### Typesetting

Format your manuscript for print and/or ebook. The interior "look".

#### Cover design

Create a cover that will sell your book to the right readers. Thorough market research is crucial for designing a book cover that engages potential readers..

#### Back cover and book description

Write a compelling summary or preview that will attract the right readers.

#### Note:

We highly recommend hiring an editor who understands Chicago Manual of Style and a typesetter who works in InDesign or similar tools. Always ask for the project files alongside the final printable files.

#### Typesetting interior "looks"

CHAPTER 4

BUILDING CONFIDENCE

Building confidence is a journey that intertwines self-assurance doesn't stem from a region of a spirit of overtimous learning. True confidence doesn't stem from a recognic or a sense of superiority, rather, it grows from an honest recognition of one's strengths and weaknesses. Embracing humility allows us to see ourselves clearly, acknowledging our limtations while clearling our accomplianments.

Humility is the cornerstone of genuine confidence. It keeps us grounded and open to fordhuck, enabling us to grow. When we are humble, we understand that we don't have all the answers, and that's okay. This acceptance opens the door to learning and improvement. We become mere receptive to now lears, willing the liken, and eager to learn from others. In this way, humility becomes a strength rather than a weakness, fortune as environment where confidence can thrine.

A learning spirit is equally essential in building confidence. By maintaining a mindset that is curious and open to new experiences, we can continuously expand our knowledge and skills. This approach helps us to view challenges not as threats, but as opportunities for growth. Each new losson learned and skill acquired adda to our confidence, reinforce C1. 4 BUILDEG CONTIDUCE ing the blaff that we are capable of versioning obstacks. Calibrating confidence through humility and ia karming priori movies series for sitter gash and calibrating small versions. These small successes build constraints, gradual boosting are confidence. We stars to trace in our delity to achieve our objectives, so matter how reader to by may be. By delity to achieve our objectives, so matter how reader to by may be. By and the first of filmer which can be enabled to be.

> "True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less." - C.S. Lewis

Growth often occurs when we push ourselves to try new things and take on challenges that initially seem duanting. Each time we step outside our confidence. Even when we face see tachcask, these experiences can be valuable learning opportunities that contribute to our overall growth.

ey strategies to build confidence include

Self-Reflection: Evaluate your experiences to understand growth areas Mentorship: Seek guidance and support from experienced mentors. Try New Things: Challenge yourself with exciting experiences.

Embrace this as a natural part of the human experience. By grounding ourselves in humility we develop a robust and resilient sense of confidence that empowers us to face like's challenges with grace and determination. On these paths, we can cultivate a confidence that is bodt enduring and adaptable. CHAPTER 4

#### Building Confidence

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Growth often occurs when we push ourselves to try new things and take on challenges that initially seem daunting. Each time we step ountide our comfort zone and succeed, we expand our capabilities and build confidence. Even when we face seaback, these experimences can be valuable learning opportunities that contribute to our overall growth.

Key strategies to build confidence include:

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# *6.* Beta Reading & ARCs

Share your polished manuscript with beta readers for feedback. Then, distribute Advance Reader Copies (ARCs) to get early reviews. This feedback can help you make final improvements and generate buzz for your book!

# *8*.

## **Publishing Platform**

Research and choose the best self-publishing platform that suits your audience and distribution needs. Consider factors like royalties, distribution reach, and printing options.

At Westsky Studio, we set our authors up with a combination of KDP and Ingram in a special order that gives you the biggest reach and makes yourself available to the most readers.

#### Print-on-demand distribution channels:

*Amazon KDP*: Ideal for authors seeking easy access to Amazon's vast customer base, KDP offers high royalty rates and user-friendly publishing tools.

*IngramSpark:* Known for its extensive distribution network, IngramSpark enables authors to reach bookstores and libraries worldwide with flexible pricing and lower printing costs.

*Draft2Digital*: A no-cost platform for authors seeking wide eBook distribution, they simplify the process with easy formatting tools and real-time sales tracking.

# *7.* Final Revisions

Make any last adjustments based on feedback from beta readers and ARC reviewers. This is your final opportunity to refine your work before publication.

# 9.

## Legal Considerations

Obtain an ISBN (International Standard Book Number) and barcode for your book. This is a unique set of numbers that allows stores to keep track of book sales. A library of congress control number (or PCN) and copyright registration are important to consider getting as well.

If you need help navigating this, email us at *connect@westsky.studio*.

*ISBN & Barcode* www.myidentifiers.com

*Library of Congress Control Number (PCN)* www.loc.gov/programs/preassigned-control -number/about-this-program/

Copyright Registration www.copyright.gov



# *10.* Marketing & Promotion

Developing a marketing strategy is critical for a successful book launch. This may include:

- 1. Build an author website and strong social media presence.
- 2. Create a mailing list for fans
- 3. Plan a book launch event (virtual or in-person)
- 4. Reach out to book bloggers and reviewers with your book.

# *12.* Post-Publication

Continue marketing efforts, engage with readers, and start thinking about your next book! Leveraging the buzz from your launch is critical if you want to stay top-of-mind with your new audience. Posting on social media and starting a newsletter are great ways to do this.

# *11.* Publication & Launch

Upload your files to your chosen platform and hit publish. This is the moment your hard work pays off!

Depending on your platform, you can order copies to keep in storage while keeping your book "Print on Demand"online.

# Enjoy the journey!

Remember, self-publishing is a journey. Stay patient, persistent, and open to learning throughout the process. If you're interested in walking through this journey with a coach, feel free to reach out to us at **connect@westsky.studio** or online at **www.westsky.studio/publishing**.