2021 Writing Goals

There are many, many areas for being a writer that you can improve on. That’s kind of the problem. It’s easy to get lost or overwhelmed in the plethora of opportunities. We often want to be everything to everyone.

WoW wants to help you focus on what is good for you! We’re asking, “What do you want to have accomplished by the end of 2021 as a writer?”

Let’s face it, “The odds of hitting your target improve when you aim at it.” So, let’s take aim to help you achieve your dreams. Let’s track what you are accomplishing and not accomplishing, so our group can help you get there. Let’s!

To START: Determine what is holding you back. Time crunch? Not sure where you want to go. Lack of knowledge in writing and publishing areas? Insecurity that your writing is good enough? Money?

NEXT: Determine which things you can address and propose a plan to address them this year. (Not all of them at once. Pace yourself.) AND, post goals somewhere to be seen regularly. On a wall, desktop, phone?

SOME OF THE TYPES OF GOALS FOR AUTHORS

Atmosphere Goals: Do you need a place to write or organize materials? For me, I have so much going on that just getting started overwhelms me. Something as simple as purchasing an extra power cord, to plug-in my laptop in two areas without fighting furniture blocking outlets helped. Do you have headphones, music playlist, general supplies and posters or files or cards with character studies or plotlines or background info? Put them where you can get to them. And don’t forget a beverage at your side for those long writing sessions.

Production Goals: How often will you write and for how long? How often to complete a chapter, a story, a book? How many projects can you manage in a year? Writing Sprints alone/with others to raise wordcounts?

Feedback goals: How will you get the feedback on your work to improve it? Utilizing critique groups and beta readers, editing services, contests, workshops, query responses?

Craft Goals: What specific areas of writing craft would you like to enhance? Character Depth, Building Tension, Better Dialogue, Grammar, Improved Word Choices…? How will you do this? Blogs you follow, social media options, workshops or classes you might take?

Technology Improvement Goals: Is there something out there that will make you more effective? New equipment or programs, better use of the programs you have available, voice-activated options, organizational software like Scrivener?

Monetary Goals: Money spent and made. What’s your budget to support your writing?

Publishing Goals: Determining best methods of publication for you? Indy, Traditional, Hybrid. Entering contests, Querying Agents and Editors, Attending Conferences, Learning how to format own books/covers.

Writing Platform Goals: How are you getting the word out about you and your writing? Websites, Newsletters, Blogs, Podcasts, Speaking Events, Book Signings, Teaching classes, Conventions, Panels

Marketing Goals: How will you actually get books out to public? Paperback or only ebooks? Programs such as Kindle Select, Kobu, Bookstores, School Libraries? What supplies do you need to promote? Bookmarks, Posters, Flags, Promotional Ads, Joint ventures with other authors?

THAT’S A LOT OF OPTIONS! Time for a handy dandy worksheet to narrow and establish your 2021 goals!

2021 Goal Planning Sheet

For each goal: Use identified types on your own to determine goal(s). Then access Goal Calendar to help set target dates or benchmarks. (It would be great if you kept your sheet and we’ll do a check in regularly.)

1. List/Outline **One Month** Goal(s):

What actions will you utilize to set you up achieve success?

What could prevent you? How will you address this?

Choose a specific reward for yourself if completed:

1. List/Outline Three Month Goal(s):

What actions will you utilize to set you up achieve success?

What could prevent you? How will you address this?

Choose a specific reward for yourself if completed:

1. List/Outline **Full Year** Goal(s):

When do you plan to have each goal accomplished?

How will you reward yourself for all of your great work in 2021?

I also recommend making monthly timeline and POSTING it where you can see it. Often!

Here is an example of a timeline for 2021 WoW Group Goals

January Set Group Goals and Schedule Workshop Speakers

February Advertisements

March Host Zoom Writing Memoirs Workshop

April Book signing at Readers World for WoW Members and Friends

June 5th Annual WoW Workshop/Book signing for participants and speakers

September Host Zoom Children’s Book Workshop

October Group Preparation for Nanowrimo

November Nanowrimo

December Author Showcase