

FirstDraft60: 30 Days of Preparation in September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Aug. 30</p>	<p>Aug. 31</p> <p>Start thinking about what story you're going to work on. Introduce yourself and state your commitment/goal for #FirstDraft60</p>	<p>Sept. 1</p> <p>Answer a set of guided questions about the challenge and your project, and ask your own questions.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Prepare your revisions notebook, style guide, and research repository</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Create Your Story Bible</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Sketch an overview of your story using a structured method, such as 3-act or 7-story-beats</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Plan to make lists. Start making lists.</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Reflection: How long have you been writing? How many drafts/manuscripts have you completed? Why did you start writing? What motivates you to keep writing.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Who are your characters--main and secondary? What POV are you using, and who will be viewpoint characters?</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Determine your characters' Spirituality, Heart, Abilities, Personality, and Experiences (SHAPE)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Describe what your characters look like (Character Casting)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>What are your main characters' goals, motivations, conflicts?</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Write out the backstory of each of your main characters.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Review everything you've done so far, update your story bible and style guide, and do some "what if" brainstorming with your backstories & outline(s).</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Reflection: Why do you want to write? Why did you choose this particular story to write? How do you think writing this story will change you?</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Don't think; just write</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Draft Writing vs. Regular Writing</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Setting daily/weekly goals, and tracking is for more than just word count</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Success = 10% inspiration, 90% perspiration</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Planning for challenges and obstacles</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Review everything you've done so far, update your story bible and style guide, and do some "what if" brainstorming with your backstories & outline(s).</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Reflection: Review and prioritize your responsibilities, obligations, commitments, etc., to see where you can build in writing time.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>What is your premise? What are the main conflicts of your plot?</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Write an outline of your story (it can be bare-bones or fully detailed) using the Seven Beat story structure.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Write at least three different one-sentence story summaries. Write at least two one-paragraph summaries</p>	<p>24</p> <p>What is your setting? What do you need to know about it before you start writing?</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Referring to your summaries, outline, and backstories, what research do you need to do ahead of time?</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Review everything you've done so far, update your story bible and style guide, and do some "what if" brainstorming with your backstories & outline(s).</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Reflection: Where do you plan to do your writing? Is it set up and ready to go? What do you need in your writing space in order to be able to commit and focus?</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Determine how you will organize your manuscript; review how to structure different types of scenes.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>After reviewing tips and parameters, discuss how you plan to attack this challenge--state your specific goals, including your overall & daily word count</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Review everything you've done so far, update your story bible and style guide, and do some "what if" brainstorming with your backstories & outline(s)</p>			

FirstDraft60: 30 Days of Writing in October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Numbers in red are the average daily word count needed for a first draft of 75,000 words. If your total word count for your draft is different, feel free to cross that out and write in your own.</p>				<p>1 2,500 Craft: Writing your opening scene(s)</p>	<p>2 5,000 Friday Brag Day: What did you accomplish this week that you're proud of? What's your favorite thing you wrote this week?</p>	<p>3 7,500 Catch-up challenge: What's your word count? Do you need to catch up? Can you re-adjust your goals if you can't catch up?</p>
<p>4 10,000 Reflection: What have you learned about your characters so far? Are they staying on track, or have you already had to make notes in your revision notebook?</p>	<p>5 12,500 Monday Motivation</p>	<p>6 15,000 Timer Tuesday: Complete at least one 1k1h challenge today</p>	<p>7 17,500 Story Bible Check Up: Schedule a quick review of your story bible, revision notebook, and style guide to see if you need to update them</p>	<p>8 20,000 Craft: Scene Hooks</p>	<p>9 22,500 Friday Brag Day: What did you accomplish this week that you're proud of? What's your favorite thing you wrote this week?</p>	<p>10 25,000 Catch-up challenge: What's your word count? Do you need to catch up? Can you re-adjust your goals if you can't catch up?</p>
<p>11 27,500 Reflection: What is your emotional writing space? How do you prepare for writing? Is there anything you can do to make sure you're in a good head-space for writing before your scheduled writing time?</p>	<p>12 30,000 Monday Motivation</p>	<p>13 32,500 Timer Tuesday: Complete at least one 1k1h challenge today</p>	<p>14 35,000 Story Bible Check Up: Schedule a quick review of your story bible, revision notebook, and style guide to see if you need to update them</p>	<p>15 37,500 Craft: Storyboarding to avoid the sagging middle</p>	<p>16 40,000 Friday Brag Day: What did you accomplish this week that you're proud of? What's your favorite thing you wrote this week?</p>	<p>17 42,500 Catch-up challenge: What's your word count? Do you need to catch up? Can you re-adjust your goals if you can't catch up?</p>
<p>18 45,000 Reflection: Have you felt negativity creeping in? Self-doubt? Overwhelming internal criticism? What can you do to overcome those feelings and return to a more positive mindset?</p>	<p>19 47,500 Monday Motivation</p>	<p>20 50,000 Timer Tuesday: Complete at least one 1k1h challenge today</p>	<p>21 52,500 Story Bible Check Up: Schedule a quick review of your story bible, revision notebook, and style guide to see if you need to update them</p>	<p>22 55,000 Craft: Consequences & Rewards (Scene & Sequel)</p>	<p>23 57,500 Friday Brag Day: What did you accomplish this week that you're proud of? What's your favorite thing you wrote this week?</p>	<p>24 60,000 Catch-up challenge: What's your word count? Do you need to catch up? Can you re-adjust your goals if you can't catch up?</p>
<p>25 62,500 Reflection: You've stuck to the challenge for 30 days, whether or not you will actually complete a first draft. How will you celebrate on 10/31?</p>	<p>26 65,000 Monday Motivation</p>	<p>27 67,500 Timer Tuesday: Complete at least one 1k1h challenge today</p>	<p>28 70,000 Story Bible Check Up: Schedule a quick review of your story bible, revision notebook, and style guide to see if you need to update them</p>	<p>29 72,500 Craft: The Marryin' and the Buryin' - writing your novel's ending.</p>	<p>30 75,000 Friday Brag Day: Today's the last day. Will you make it?</p>	<p>31 Happy Halloween! Go celebrate finishing your first draft.</p>