

FIRE UP
YOUR WRITING
and finish that book!

Brought to you by:

diy MFA



People Think Being a Writer Is...



Working in Seclusion



Socializing at Glamorous Salons



Winning the Lottery



Being a Writer Actually Is...



Doing the Work



Connecting with Readers



Engaging with Community



You Already Are a Writer

If you write and make writing an important part of your life, then **you are a writer**. It doesn't matter how you share your words with the world.

If you write, you are a writer.



Good News!

At DIY MFA, we've discovered the formula for writing success:

write + *read* + *build*
WITH FOCUS WITH PURPOSE YOUR COMMUNITY

Let's break this down further.



Write with Focus

Keys to Writing with Focus



Stay motivated, even when short on inspiration.



Make sense and take stock of you've written up to this point.



Have a clear vision of where to go next.



Approach revision in a systematic way.



Stay Motivated

Remember, inspiration is for sissies.



The best way to stay motivated is to **stay in motion.**



Have a game plan. Know what you'll work on **before** sitting down to write.



Take it **one step at a time.** Don't juggle too many things at once.



Take Stock and Make a Plan



Extract an outline of what you wrote.

TIP: Use scene cards to break your story down scene by scene.



Fill in the gaps where scenes are missing or haven't been written yet.



Use these unwritten scene cards to guide your writing as you move forward.



Scene Cards

Scene Name: _____

Major Players: _____

What Happens: _____

Purpose: _____



Revise Systematically



Start with broad, over-arching issues first.



Focus on a different hurdle with each “pass.”



While drafting or rewriting, write “as if.”

TIP: Don’t make changes as you write. Make a note and keep writing forward. Come back and fix it later.



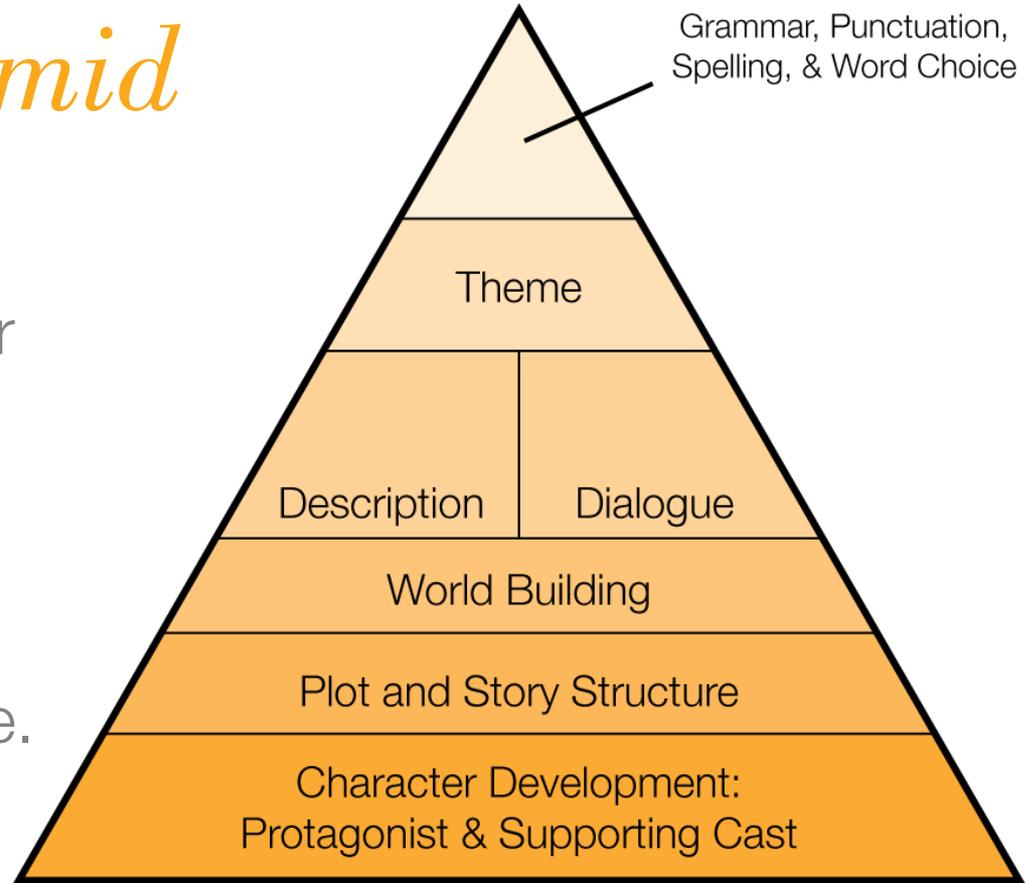
Leave small, cosmetic issues for last.



Revision Pyramid

Focus on fundamentals and basic aspects of your story first.

This prevents you from having to fix the same problems more than once.



Why Read with Purpose?



You can see how other authors solved similar problems that you're facing in your WIP.



See examples of these solutions in action.



Use your reading to serve your writing.

TIP: Develop a go-to reading list of books and short stories that solve different writing problems.



Stay Accountable with Your Reading



Reading is the easiest piece of the DIY MFA puzzle to let slide. Stay accountable!



Build an arsenal of go-to reading resources.

- Anthology of short form literature.
- Book of prompts and exercises.
- Craft reference book.



Goals in Building Your Community

-  Connect with other writers and mentors.
-  Find your ideal readers.
-  Understand and navigate the industry.



4 Elements of a Writing Community

-  **Critique** → Get honest, helpful feedback on your work.
-  **Accountability** → Writing buddies will keep you motivated.
-  **Support** → Writing is hard, so find support and celebrate wins with fellow writers.
-  **Advice** → Mentors and advisors will help you navigate your career and give you “tough love” when needed.



It's totally possible to go it alone...

...but you don't have to.



DIY MFA Best-Kept Secret

We offer one-on-one mentoring at DIY MFA...

...but we're usually pretty quiet about advertising or promoting it.

This is the last round of mentoring clients I'm taking before maternity leave.



Why the Big Secret?



The mentoring program is hard work and not for the faint of heart.



Our approach works as hard as you do. Put in the work and **you will see results.**

Mentoring: The DIY MFA Way

How It Works:

-  Sign-Up for a Mentoring Jumpstart Package (fill out the questionnaire and have your intro session).
-  If we hit it off and it feels like a good fit, we'll discuss Advanced Mentoring options.
-  Get ready to work hard, write a lot and see results!



My Mentoring Philosophy



I'm not just a cheerleader. I will challenge you and make you work hard.



I expect the same seriousness and high level of commitment from all my writers, from beginners to multi-published authors.



Just because it's hard work, doesn't mean it won't be fun. (I used to design toys, I know how to make work into play.)



Most Importantly...



My goal is to empower you and give you the skills so eventually you can do this work on your own.



Every writer I work with eventually “graduates” and goes on to do amazing work all on their own.





By participating in this weekend, you've taken a **huge step** toward your writing goal.

Are you ready to up your game?

If so, click the link to learn more about the DIY MFA Mentoring Program.



Thank You!

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