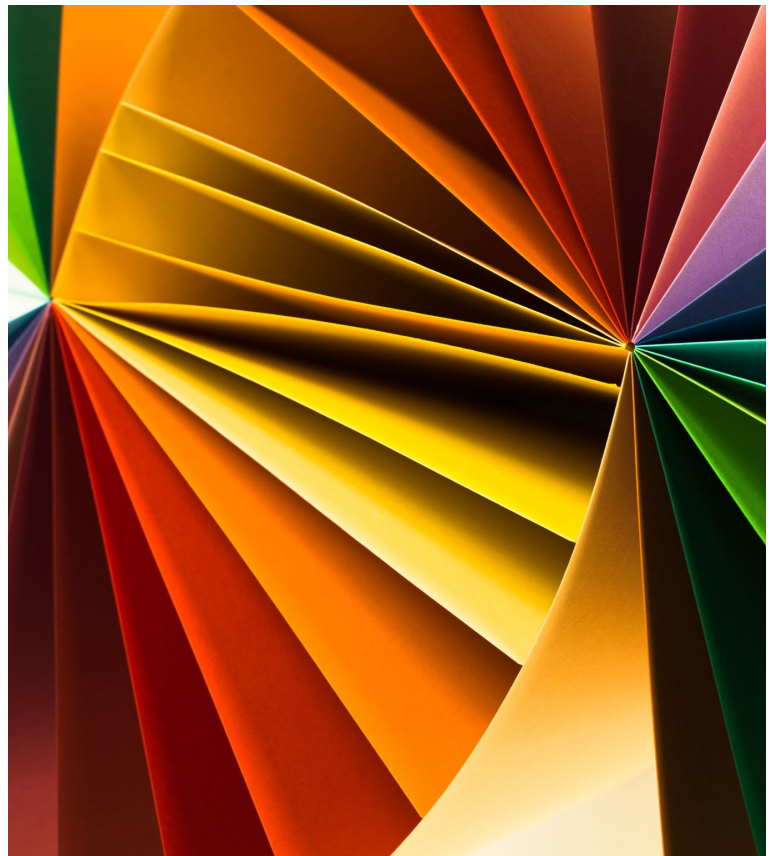




Issues for Writers in the Creative Process

A workbook on
craft, marketplace,
and mindset
considerations in
your development
as a writer





Issues of Craft

The top 3 craft elements I need to work on are:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

My plan to improve:

Issues of Craft

Reading as a writer

5 craft books I will read next:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

5 books in my genre I will read next:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Issues of Craft

My Feedback Plan

Who will I go to for advice? Writing groups/teachers/coaches/websites:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

My writing schedule:

Days?

Times?

I commit to writing on _____ from _____ to _____.

Issues of the Marketplace

**What do you already know?
What do you need to learn
more about?**

Traditional publishing:

- **What genre I write in___**
- **What are some titles that compare with my book___**
- **What an agent does and doesn't do___**
- **How to research agents___**
- **How to write a query___**
- **How to write a synopsis___**

Issues of the Marketplace

Traditional publishing, continued:

I know:

- **What an acquisitions editor does ___**
- **What a developmental editor does ___**
- **What a copy (or line) editor does ___**
- **What a proofreader does ___**
- **Who is part of the marketing team ___**
- **What a bookstore buyer does ___**
- **What a bookstore manager does ___**
- **What a bookstore events manager does ___**

Issues of the Marketplace

Resources to help me (podcasts, books, websites, etc.) – for both traditional and self-publishing?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

Issues of Mindset

Understand that you will have self-doubts, fears of rejection and reception of your work, and times when you lack motivation! All writers do. They do not indicate lack of talent.

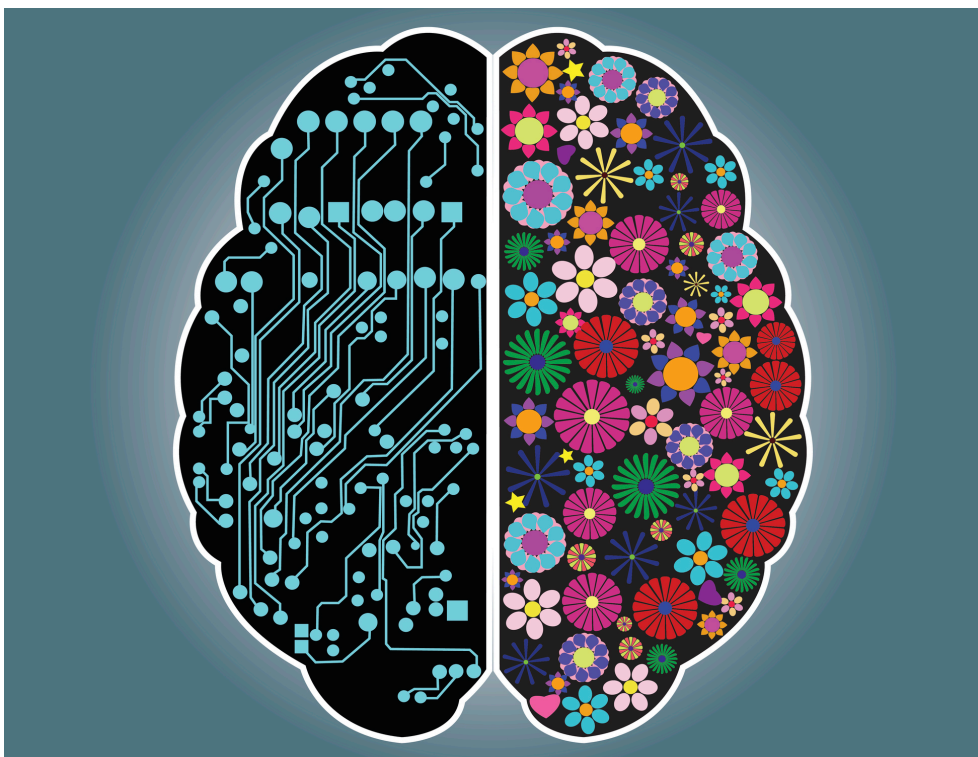
Make a plan so that you know what to do when these issues strike.

- **Writing friends you can connect with**
- **Books that inspire you**
- **Affirmations that give you energy and confidence**
- **Other self-care: take a walk, explore a new place, try a new art form...**

Issues of Mindset

Remember: Write a first draft with your Writer's Brain, and let your Editor's Brain take charge in revision!

For some people, this means writing fast. For others, it means simply acknowledging the critical Editor's Brain when it pops up and reassuring it that it will have its chance later.



Issues with Starting

- **Commit to a schedule. # of minutes or words per day, # of days per week**
- **Commit to learning whatever areas of craft you don't feel strong in**
- **Keep a notebook to record all your ideas (or an app like Evernote)**
- **Keep a list of go-to writing exercises to inspire you**
- **Take a class for ideas, structure, and deadlines**

Issues with Continuing

- **Keep to your schedule, even when you don't feel like it.**
- **Always stop in the middle of a sentence or scene, so you know exactly where to pick up when you come back**
- **Commit to finishing! If you get a great idea for the next book, make a few notes, but don't derail the first project. This often happens when we feel bored, demoralized, or stuck in the first book.**

Issues with Continuing

- **If you're stuck, think of 10 logical things that could happen. Then think of 10 *illogical* things that could happen – the more outrageous the better. Freewrite the scene for 20 minutes, writing as if it were a story on its own and didn't have to “make sense” in the context of the story.**
- **Map out your story using one of the many story mapping tools available. Often that will spark a fresh idea.**
- **Get support from your accountability partner or writer's group!**

Issues with Finishing and Publication

- **Have you revised your manuscript enough?**
- **Have other eyes seen it? Not just your loyal writer's group, but beta readers, a professional editor or coach, or someone more experienced who can help you see the flaws?**
- **Be sure you understand the pros and cons of traditional and self-publishing. Take your time and learn all you can about all the marketplace elements before you jump into sending your book to an agent or self-publishing.**

Issues with Finishing and Publication

- **Embrace the business of publishing and marketing your work! After all, you *want* to connect with readers who might love your work.**
- **Start to build a writer's platform: a website, social media presence, short stories or articles, blog posts...**
- **Understand that rejection and negative criticism are a normal part of the writing game. Who is your support system to help see you through this and encourage you to keep going?**

My rewards for meeting my writing goals

Think of rewards small, medium, and large to fit different stages of success. Don't forget this step! It's important to keep your creative motivation. Some ideas: a new set of pens and a notebook, a new book, a writer's conference or retreat, new tech (a big monitor for your laptop, investing in Scrivener or other writing software...)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.



And finally...

**Keep your
SCHEDULE (what you
commit to do when),
your GOALS,
and your REWARDS in a
place where you can
easily see them and
review them often!**