

A Day-by-Day Guide for Writers





INTRODUCTION

"Guys, I need this in my life: An Author Accountability Guide." The Researcher

"Yeah, we should do that!" The Architect

"That's a great idea! Someone should do that!" The Cheerleader

And so we became Someone. The Taskmaster

O nce upon a time, there were four Muses who decided to create a planner/ guide for writers. This magical book would be a new resource for those seeking to set goals, track progress (not just word count), and enjoy the Museinspired motivation to stick with it for an entire year. Thus, the <u>Author's</u> <u>Accountability Planner</u> was born.

We hope authors find this book useful through each stage of their writing journey. Writing and creating, whether full-time or part-time, require time and organization. This planner is designed to help track time, provide recommendations, and share what the Muses have discovered to be game changers on their own journeys.

Throughout the year, everyone faces the challenges of self-doubt, procrastination, and Life in General (Remember the 2020 pandemic jolting everyone around the globe?). It's okay! Every week, the Muses are here to guide you through this adventure.

We will get through this together.

Discover our Publishing company here:

4HorsemenPublications.com

How to Use This Book

The Muses have spent countless hours fine-tuning the functionality of this book (by deciding if it should record writing time or beyond that). In the end, the Muses decided to account for all of the time spent doing writer-type things (brainstorming, writing, researching, editing, marketing, etc.). Many books discuss word count, but so much more happens before, after, and during the process of laying a book on paper (both physically and digitally).

Finishing the story is the single most important and difficult part of being a writer. To succeed, writers need accountability, someone or something to keep them motivated week after week. The Muses are here to keep the adventure moving forward, fight writer's block, and offer strategies to achieve year-end goals. Life is unpredictable, offering a variety of momentum-destroying reasons. This book can help you fight through those tough times while maintaining high morale.

In the end, only YOU can write YOUR story. You're here now, ready to do this. Let's go!

THE LAYOUT

The <u>annual version of this book</u> contains four parts: Introductory Material (you're here!), Goal Setting, Month-by-Month Tracking, and Year Review. Each month has three sections: Monthly Prep, Weekly Overviews, and Monthly Review. This special edition only covers the month of November.

TRACKING DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A uthors know that writing is more than sitting in a chair and putting words to paper (or screen). Word count is only one component of the writing process. A whole realm of prepping, marketing, research, and editing gets left out of all those other planners! We want you to be accountable by tracking all of the time you devote to your writing. Throughout this planner, the Muses have divided daily writing time into several different categories: Word Count, Brainstorming, Editing, Marketing, Research, and Reading.

Track your progress in these categories every day. It's okay to put a zero in a few places and focus on one task. Reviewing this information later can be

DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Friday 29
WORD COUNT:	Marketing Hours:
Brainstorming Hours;	Research Hours;
EDITING HOURS:	Reading Hours:

eye-opening when you compare good and bad weeks. In the end, use these pages to fine-tune your writing schedule, optimizing your output for all your writing needs. Some of us perform better when pairing tasks with one another; other times we reach higher word counts after reading and researching. Use these numbers to maximize your potential and make goal setting more rewarding.

WORD COUNT

You know this one! Word count is a common measure among authors to track their progress.

BRAINSTORMING

Some of us are pantsers while others are plotters. At times, we combine strategies! Either way, we spend some time prepping a story, even if it's an hour at the cafe writing on a napkin.

EDITING

Most writers work on more than one project at a time. Divide your attention between writing one work while editing another. One story might be completely drafted but still needs revision and editing. This step should never be skipped whether posting to a blog or pitching to agents or publishers. Check your work.

MARKETING

If you dream to be famous, build awareness, or publish books, it's important to keep your author platform active by engaging on social media, writing blogs, posting advertisements, sending out newsletters, hosting events, and more. Automate as much as possible, scheduling your posts in advance to give yourself more time to create content. Don't risk losing your reader's interest!

RESEARCH

Whether researching how to buy a horse or a new method for writing dialogue, count your time. You're working! As a writer no less! These hours count too. ting. Some projects might be more demanding than others, so log your time!

READING

As writers, we hear this advice often: Read what you're writing! It's true! Read widely and often—both in and out of your comfort zone. Pick up a classic or treat yourself with the newest release. Engage in the writing world in every way.

I WANT TO BE A WRITER

T ake a look at all the projects and stories you want to complete for this coming year and predict your word count for them. It's okay to fall over or under and you may massage these as the year progresses, but throw something out there to get started. Here's a rough scope of word counts to aid you in estimation:

TYPES

Flash Fiction 1,000 word or less Short Story 1,200-10,000 Novelette 10.000-30.000 Novella 30,000-45,000 Novel 50,000-85,000 Epic Novel 90,000-150,000 Textbook 50,000-250,000 Young Adult 50,000-80,000 Middle Grade 25,000-40,000

Chapter Books 10,000-20,000

Picture Books 300-700

GENRE

Blog Posts 200-1,200

Romance 50,000-70,000

Paranormal 70,000-90,000

Fantasy 90,000-120,000

Crime 90,000-100,000

Mystery/Thriller/Suspense 70,000-80,000

> Memoir 30,000-70,000

Science Fiction 90,000-125,000

Horror 70,000-100,000

Historical 80,000-120,000

Erotica 7,000-50,000

How many words will you write this NaNo?_____

How many words did you complete last year?_____

How many projects will you complete?_____

THE MUSE PAGE

e can't leave you alone. That's why every week you get a little bit of something from each muse to help you through your 7-day struggle. The content here will change up often with a combination of inspirational quotes, exercises, fun facts, writing tips, and so much more. We hope we can make you smile, take a breath, and feel inspired to keep at it. This is hard work, we know! We're writers too!

JOIN A WRITER'S COMMUNITY

First, we'd like to invite you to join the <u>4HP Accountable Authors Group</u> on Facebook. There. You now have joined an author's community filled with folks who are actively trying to stay accountable! Also, there's a lot of writers communities out there. Check with your local library, colleges and universities, cafes, writing associations, and more. If you prefer online, many of these have options with a variety of hashtags on Twitter and Facebook by location and genre. Find workshops, classes, or give personal experience and advice. The greatest myth is the assumption that being a writer is a solitary ordeal. No. It's not. It doesn't have to be. Now, go into the light!

NANOWRIMO RESOURCES

o matter your location in the world, you can participate in NaNoWriMo. Starting in September and October, many library systems host special events in conjunction with local NaNoWriMo chapters to help prepare participants for this special event.

Every November, writers can connect with resources, networks, and events online and within their region. Signing up on the NaNoWriMo website, whether you plan to participate or not, keeps you informed on what's happening online and locally throughout the year. The website connects you with your NaNoWriMo home region, allowing you to follow calendars, hop in forum discussions, and so much more, like year-round online sprints and NaNoWriMo Camp sessions in months that might be more aligned with your schedule and outside of holiday seasons. You may not be writing the novel in November, but that doesn't mean you can't join festivities and workshops!

We strongly believe writing isn't a solitary venture, but an opportunity to build a writing community anywhere, both physically and virtually!

NANOWRIMO.ORG

OUR FAVORITE GO-TO BOOKS

Every author has a shelf (whether on a folder on the computer or a physical bookshelf) of those books that inspire and aid. Here are only a few of the books we have found useful in our own journey.

Romancing the Beat by Gwen Hayes

Naughty Word for Nice Writers by Cara Bristol

Crafting the Character Arc by Jennie Jarvis

The Complete Revision Workbook for Writers by Arielle Haughee

1,000 Strong Verbs for fiction by Valerie Howard

1,000 Character Reactions from Head to Toe by Valerie Howard

Woe Is I by Patricia O'Conner

On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft by Stephen King

Danse Macabre by Stephen King

Save the Cat! Writes a Novel by Jessica Brody

Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life by Anne Lamott

Eats, Shoots, & Leaves by Lynne Truss

Coffee Break Writing by John Gillard

The Anatomy of Story: 22 Steps to Becoming a Master Storyteller by John Truby

Writing Tools: 55 Essential Strategies for Every Writer by Roy Peter Clark

The Emotional Craft of Fiction: How to Write the Story Beneath the Surface by Donald Maass

Writer's Bane: Research by Valerie Willis

The Author's Accountability Planner 2021

The Cheerleader

Hello! So great to meet you! I love supporting writers! If you can't tell, I'm excited to have you here and for the opportunity to be your muse. My goal is to send you positive vibes, inspire your creativity, and encourage you to reward yourself often. Let's make magic happen!

I write paranormal romance and fantasy.

Favorite Book: The Talisman by Stephen King and Peter Straub.

THE ARCHITECT

Your prose is beautiful, and I'm here to help you keep it polished and publishable. We are building your writing together, so look for my advice and reminders at every turn. This is about mastering your craft, and you don't have to do it alone. Let's build a masterpiece together!

I write young adult epic fantasy and adult paranormal romance.

Favorite Book: The Blue Sword by Robin McKinley

The Muses

THE RESEARCHER

Did you know... that I love to drop facts and encourage you to discover new things outside your comfort zone. Stimulating the brain and sparking creativity through research and the world around you is a vital part of being a writer. Whether we're investigating some hidden nugget of history or looking back at how strange life can be, let's light a fire on your imagination.

I write fantasy, paranormal, mythology, romance, and erotica.

Favorite Book: The Captive Prince Trilogy

THE TASKMASTER

Staying focused and on point can be difficult. Oftentimes writer's block can derail days if not months of effort. I'm here to keep you on task! One way to do this is through constant evaluation and setting goals. I will be here to create a sense of urgency while keeping you moving forward in one way or another. Now, let's get to work!

I write horror, paranormal, thriller, and erotica.

Favorite Book: "YOURS! As soon as you finish it! Get to Work!"

LET THE NANOWRIMO

PLANNER COMMENCE!

November

44 ATIONAL NOVEL WRITING MONTH! Sign up to participate in this international celebration, here: nanowrimo.org. Writing a novel alone can be difficult, but NaNoWriMo helps you track progress, set milestones, connect with a vast writers community, and participate in events designed to make sure you finish your novel. Oh, and best of all, it's free!

Nov 1 - Saint's Day

Nov 11 - Veteran's Day Nov. 25 - Thanksgiving

Nov 26 - Black Friday

What Does Your Month Look Like

Holidays:_____ Weekdays:_____ Weekends:_____ Other:_____

What **project(s)** do you plan on working on?

What goal are you aiming to achieve?

What will be your biggest **obstacle** this month?

How will you overcome this? Or adjust for this?

What will be your End of the Month reward?

GOALS FOR THIS MONTH

Word Count:
Brainstorming Hours:
Editing Hours:

Marketing Hours:	
Research Hours:	
Reading Hours:	

Week 1

DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Sunday 1
WORD COUNT:	MARKETING HOURS;
BRAINSTORMING HOURS:	Research Hours:
EDITING HOURS:	Reading Hours;
DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Monday 2
WORD COUNT:	MARKETING HOURS;
BRAINSTORMING HOURS:	
EDITING HOURS:	Reading Hours;
DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Tuesday 3
WORD COUNT:	Marketing Hours:
BRAINSTORMING HOURS:	
EDITING HOURS:	
DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Wednesday 4
WORD COUNT:	Marketing Hours:
Brainstorming Hours:	
EDITING HOURS:	
DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Thursday 5
WORD COUNT:	Marketing Hours:
BRAINSTORMING HOURS:	
EDITING HOURS:	
DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Friday 6
WORD COUNT:	Marketing Hours;
BRAINSTORMING HOURS:	
EDITING HOURS:	Reading Hours;
DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Saturday 7
WORD COUNT:	MARKETING HOURS;
BRAINSTORMING HOURS:	1
EDITING HOURS:	

WEEKLY OVERVIEW

EXERCISE: Take 5-minute to write something with the 2 words below:

Truth

Post your exercise on the 4HP Accountable Authors Group on Facebook!

Dare

What was your sprint time and top word count?

List a new song you discovered this week:

Favorite food or drink this week:

How did you reward yourself?

What project(s) did you work on?

What are you reading?

What went well this week?

What could improve this week?

Total for the Week

Word Count:_____ Brainstorming Hours:_____ Editing Hours:_____ Marketing Hours:_____ Research Hours:_____ Reading Hours:_____

Don't forget to color in your grid!

THE AUTHOR'S ACCOUNTABILITY PLANNER

The Cheerleader

A little reward goes a long way. Treat yourself at the end of this week!

THE ARCHITECT

Plan out your novel three chapters at a time. This will allow you to focus on your story in smaller chunks.



LIGHT IT UP!!!!

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WEEK 2

DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Sunday 8
WORD COUNT:	Marketing Hours;
BRAINSTORMING HOURS:	Research Hours;
EDITING HOURS:	Reading Hours;
DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Monday 9
WORD COUNT:	MARKETING HOURS;
BRAINSTORMING HOURS:	
EDITING HOURS	Reading Hours;
DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Tuesday 10
WORD COUNT:	Marketing Hours;
BRAINSTORMING HOURS:	
EDITING HOURS:	
DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Wednesday 11
WORD COUNT:	Marketing Hours:
BRAINSTORMING HOURS:	
EDITING HOURS:	
DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Thursday 12
WORD COUNT:	Marketing Hours;
BRAINSTORMING HOURS:	
EDITING HOURS:	
DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Friday 13
WORD COUNT:	Marketing Hours;
Brainstorming Hours:	
EDITING HOURS:	
DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Saturday 14
WORD COUNT:	Marketing Hours;
Brainstorming Hours;	
EDITING HOURS:	

WEEKLY OVERVIEW

EXERCISE: Take 5-minute to write something with the 2 words below:

Coffee

Post your exercise on the 4HP Accountable Authors Group on Facebook!

Tea

What was your sprint time and top word count?

List a new song you discovered this week:

Favorite food or drink this week:

How did you reward yourself?

What project(s) did you work on?

What are you reading?

What went well this week?

What could improve this week?

Total for the Week

Word Count:_____ Brainstorming Hours:_____ Editing Hours:_____ Marketing Hours:_____ Research Hours:_____ Reading Hours:_____

Don't forget to color in your grid!

THE AUTHOR'S ACCOUNTABILITY PLANNER

The Cheerleader

"Trust dreams. Trust your heart and trust your story." ~ Neil Gaiman

THE ARCHITECT

Don't re-read what you've written. Keep moving forward. It's about putting words to paper and proving you can write a novel! #Persist

THE RESEARCHER

THE MUSES

We are all builders of worlds! I challenge you to take a place you've always wanted to go, and take your character there! Take your readers there!

That cool cafe up the street?

A hotel in Delphi, Greece?

What about that castle on an

island you saw?

A tropical paradise? In Cancun? Little Bimini perhaps?

Maybe an ancient temple in Cambodia!

THE TASKMASTER

PUT DOWN THE PHONE!!!!

Week 3

D AILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Sunday 15
WORD COUNT:	Marketing Hours;
BRAINSTORMING HOURS:	
Editing Hours:	Reading Hours;
DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Monday 16
WORD COUNT:	MARKETING HOURS:
BRAINSTORMING HOURS:	
Editing Hours:	Reading Hours;
DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Tuesday 17
WORD COUNT:	Marketing Hours:
BRAINSTORMING HOURS:	Research Hours;
EDITING HOURS	Reading Hours;
DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Wednesday 18
WORD COUNT:	Marketing Hours;
Brainstorming Hours:	
EDITING HOURS:	
DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Thursday 19
WORD COUNT:	Marketing Hours;
Brainstorming Hours:	
EDITING HOURS	
DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Friday 20
WORD COUNT:	MARKETING HOURS;
BRAINSTORMING HOURS:	
EDITING HOURS	READING HOURS:
Daily Accomplishments	Saturday 21
WORD COUNT:	Marketing Hours;
BRAINSTORMING HOURS:	,
EDITING HOURS:	

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WEEKLY OVERVIEW

EXERCISE: Take 5-minute to write something with the 2 words below:

Artist

Post your exercise on the 4HP Accountable Authors Group on Facebook!

Singer

What was your sprint time and top word count?

List a new song you discovered this week:

Favorite food or drink this week:

How did you reward yourself?

What project(s) did you work on?

What are you reading?

What went well this week?

What could improve this week?

Total for the Week

Word Count:_____ Brainstorming Hours:_____ Editing Hours:_____ Marketing Hours:_____ Research Hours:_____ Reading Hours:_____

Don't forget to color in your grid!

THE AUTHOR'S ACCOUNTABILITY PLANNER

The Cheerleader

Motivation Recap: Set a timer for three minutes, and make a list of all the reasons WHY you are doing this.

THE ARCHITECT

If you get stuck writing, consider changing the structure of the story to spark new ideas.

THE RESEARCHER

THE MUSES

Some families have weird traditions. In fact, in Roman families, the fathers could sell their kids into slavery. It was considered a patriarchal right, but a law was in place. If said child regained his/ her freedom, they could only sell them back into slavery three times max! At that point, they were deemed forever free!

THE TASKMASTER Hey you, yeah you with the Novel, keep it up... Readers are waiting!

WEEK 4

D AILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Sunday 22
WORD COUNT:	Marketing Hours;
BRAINSTORMING HOURS:	
Editing Hours:	Reading Hours;
DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Monday 23
WORD COUNT:	MARKETING HOURS:
BRAINSTORMING HOURS:	RESEARCH HOURS;
EDITING HOURS	Reading Hours;
DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Tuesday 24
WORD COUNT:	Marketing Hours;
BRAINSTORMING HOURS:	
EDITING HOURS	Reading Hours:
DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Wednesday 25
WORD COUNT:	Marketing Hours;
BRAINSTORMING HOURS:	
EDITING HOURS:	
DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Thursday 26
WORD COUNT:	Marketing Hours;
Brainstorming Hours:	
EDITING HOURS	Reading Hours:
DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Friday 27
WORD COUNT:	Marketing Hours:
Brainstorming Hours:	
EDITING HOURS:	Reading Hours;
DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Saturday 28
WORD COUNT:	Marketing Hours:
BRAINSTORMING HOURS:	
EDITING HOURS:	

WEEKLY OVERVIEW

EXERCISE: Take 5-minute to write something with the 2 words below:

Turkey Natives

Post your exercise on the 4HP Accountable Authors Group on Facebook!

What was your sprint time and top word count?

List a new song you discovered this week:

Favorite food or drink this week:

How did you reward yourself?

What project(s) did you work on?

What are you reading?

What went well this week?

What could improve this week?

TOTAL FOR THE WEEK

Word Count:_____ Brainstorming Hours:_____ Editing Hours:_____

Marketing Hours:_____ Research Hours:_____ Reading Hours:_____

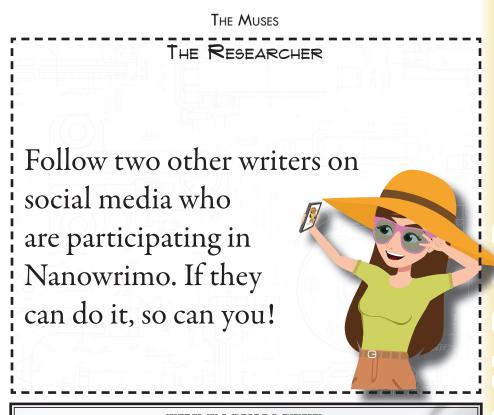
Don't forget to color in your grid!

THE AUTHOR'S ACCOUNTABILITY PLANNER



THE ARCHITECT

Congratulations! You finished writing a novel. But remember, it's not ready to query. It's time for revision.



THE TASKMASTER

There are several things for which I am certain... The #1 thing is: YOU DID IT!!!

DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

WORD COUNT: BRAINSTORMING HOURS:

EDITING HOURS:

SUNDAY 29

MARKETING HOURS: RESEARCH HOURS. READING HOURS:_

DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MONDAY 30

WORD COUNT:	
BRAINSTORMING HOURS:	
EDITING HOURS:	

MARKETING HOURS: RESEARCH HOURS.

READING HOURS:__

THE ARCHITECT

Now create a revision plan. First reread you novel. Gather your thoughts. Fix Big World Issue, then work your way to Small Issues. Have several beta readers provide feedback. Re-read. Stay positive. You can do this!

WEEKLY OVERVIEW

EXERCISE: Take 5-minute to write something with the 2 words below:

Shopping

Post your exercise on the 4HP Accountable Authors Group on Facebook!

Mayhem

What was your sprint time and top word count?

List a new song you discovered this week:

Favorite food or drink this week:

How did you reward yourself?

What project(s) did you work on?

What are you reading?

What went well this week?

What could improve this week?

TOTAL FOR THE WEEK

Word Count:_____ Brainstorming Hours:_____ Editing Hours:_____

Marketing Hours:_____ Research Hours:_____ Reading Hours:_____

Don't forget to color in your grid!

MONTHLY ACTIVITY GRID

WRITING OR WORD COUNT	1 2 3
Brainstorming	4 5
Editing	6
Marketing or Social Media	
Research	
Reading	
OTHER:	NXXX II
	13
////-	4
, AAA	15
///	
	12 St
18 08 57 30	57 57 57 57 54
52 58 50 30	57 27 28 29

Your Average Word Count for the Month

Total Word Count:_____ Divided by _____ days =_____

TOTAL FOR THE YEAR SO FAR

Word Count:	
Brainstorming Hours:	
Editing Hours:	

Marketing Hours:	_
Research Hours:	_
Reading Hours:	

JOURNAL

MONTHLY REVIEW

What was your top week?

What made your top week successful?

What was your biggest obstacle?

How did you overcome this? Or could do better next time?

What was your biggest achievement?

What inspired you most this month?

Did you discover a new writing tip or advice this month?

TOTAL FOR THE MONTH

Word Count:_____ Brainstorming Hours:_____ Editing Hours:_____ Marketing Hours:_____ Research Hours:_____ Reading Hours:_____

TOTAL FOR THE YEAR SO FAR

Word Count:	
Brainstorming Hours:	
Editing Hours:	

Marketing Hours:_____ Research Hours:_____ Reading Hours:_____

Don't forget to color in your grid!

NaNoWriMo is

Officially OVER!

You were AMAZING!

But! Don't stop here!

Pick up a copy of

The Author's Accountability

Planner 2021!