



From Idea to Outline

Free Novel Planning Worksheet

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Part 1: Clarify Your Core Idea

**WHAT'S THE BASIC
IDEA FOR YOUR NOVEL?**

**WRITE IT IN ONE
SENTENCE OR TWO:**

This is a story about...

**WHAT'S THE
GENRE AND
TONE?**

(e.g., fantasy, mystery, historical fiction,
lighthearted, dark, romantic, etc.)

**WHAT INSPIRED
THIS IDEA?**

**A DREAM? A QUESTION?
A REAL-LIFE EVENT? A
MASHUP OF CONCEPTS?**



Part 2: Get to Know Your Main Character

Who is your protagonist?

Name, age, personality, background

What do they want (externally)?

What's their main goal or desire?

What do they need (internally)?

What flaw, fear, or false belief is holding them back?

How will they change by the end?

Think: emotional growth, new belief, major choice



Part 3: Define the Conflict

What's standing in your character's way?

An antagonist? A system? An internal struggle?

[illegible]

What's at stake if they fail?

For them personally? For the world around them?

[illegible]



Part 5: Fill in the Gaps

Answer these bonus prompts to enrich your outline and spark ideas for scenes:

1

WHAT RELATIONSHIPS DRIVE THE STORY
(FRIENDSHIP, ROMANCE, RIVALRY)?

WHAT THEMES OR QUESTIONS DO YOU WANT
TO EXPLORE?

2

WHAT'S ONE BIG "SCENE MOMENT" YOU CAN'T
WAIT TO WRITE?

3

WHAT DOES YOUR CHARACTER BELIEVE AT
THE BEGINNING VS. THE END?

4



CONCLUSION

Your outline doesn't have to be perfect—it just has to give you a starting point. You've laid the foundation for your story. Now it's time to build it, one word at a time.

And when you're ready for expert feedback, revisions, or support as you write and polish your draft, Verity Proofreading and Editing is here to help.

Keep going. Your story matters.

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