

Journalism/Creative Writing Extended Project Fiction Track

Day Six: Detailed Outline

At this point we have all of the initial parts of your story planned. Before we start writing, we need a detailed outline with as much information as you can come up with. We're going to use what you've planned so far and make sure we have all of the information together on one super detailed outline.

You need to decide what kind of outline works best for your writing style. There is no hard-and-fast right and wrong. Some writers just want a simple bullet-pointed list of the progression of the plot with the character reveals, subplots, etc., woven in. Some authors want a more organized outline, using the Act 1, 2, 3 with sub lists (using roman numerals or A, B, C, etc.) within (like taking notes in history class). Some writers use a hybrid of the two as needed. Figure out what works for you and in your journal/on your laptop create as detailed of a outline as possible.

Within your outline, you'll want to include: overall plot, subplots, character details (when things get revealed), red herrings, theme symbols, etc. You'll have a few days to work on this, so take your time. The more you plan/outline now, the easier (and more cohesive) your writing will be for you later.