

HOW TO *Begin Your Novel* WORKSHEET

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ONE: WHAT TONE IS APPROPRIATE?

If you're writing a horror story, make a promise to your reader that you're going to scare them by making them jump in the first pages, paragraphs, or sentences.

Or if you're writing romance, include some touching/feeling or use steamy words to describe things.

What's your genre:

Set a two-minute timer and free write any ideas that come to mind about including tone in your book.

TWO: WHAT EMOTION DO YOU WANT YOUR READER TO FEEL?

What's the feeling you want your reader to have at the end of the book? You could mirror it at the beginning or give the complete opposite.

Set a timer and brainstorm, writing down all possibilities for ways to infuse emotions into your first pages.

THREE: WHAT OPINION DO YOU WANT YOUR READER TO FORM ABOUT YOUR MAIN CHARACTER?

What are your main character's weaknesses?

What's the true heart of your character?

Where do you see your character at the end of the story?

Now brainstorm the very best way to introduce your character:

FOUR: WHAT'S AT STAKE?

What are some of the conflicts in the story?

What/who will be ruined or die if your main character fails?

Why is it up to the MC to keep everything from falling apart?

How can you hint at or reveal what's at stake in the opening scene?

FIVE: WHAT IS THE GOAL?

Your MC's goals CAN change during the story, but they need one to start out, to give readers a reason to turn the page.

What are they going to do based on the conflicts you put down earlier?

Brainstorm the best way to let the reader know the plan.

