

7 HABITS OF SUCCESSFUL WRITERS

- 1. They read in their genre.** If you write romance novels, make sure you read romance novels. Whatever content you're interested in writing, make sure you consume that material. Reading is a non-negotiable habit for writers. Many people feel guilty about time spent reading. Just because you enjoy it does not mean it is solely a luxury. Reading is a writer's duty; it's part of the job. Read every day.
- 2. They protect their writing time.** You cannot make progress on your draft if you have no time in which to do so. Establish clear writing time (an hour a day is a great starting point) and make sure everyone in your household is aware of it and respectful of it. This is difficult for people who are used to catering to the needs of others, but imperative.
- 3. They respect the process.** Successful writers understand that writing is a process. It takes time and discipline. You must understand that your work on any given day will not magically yield a book. The finished product is the result of completing many small tasks over a period of time. Those small tasks, though they might seem futile in the moment, eventually compound and coalesce into a finished manuscript.
- 4. They battle procrastination.** Writing is hard. Period. Because of that, it's oh-so tempting to put it off for another day. Writers must go to battle daily with procrastination. Understand that time is going to march on whether you write or not. So ask yourself, a year from now, do you want to have written a book or not? If you do, then go to battle with procrastination. Do not let it rule you.
- 5. They don't rush.** Towards the end of the book writing process, it's not uncommon to realize that you suddenly hate your book. You're sick of the material and just want to be done with it. But successful writers know that it would be a mistake to rush through the process. They give the book the time it deserves; they put in the work to make it the best book they can write. Sometimes this means putting the manuscript aside for a time and turning to other projects until they're ready to resume.
- 6. They welcome feedback.** It's not easy to have your writing critiqued, but successful writers know that this a key part of the process. Editors and test readers provide new perspective and insight to strengthen the material. Listen to feedback without getting defensive. When getting feedback, you're not under attack, you're receiving a gift.
- 7. They accept the ratio between effort and finished product.** Successful writers understand that much of what they write will be thrown out by the time the book is finished. They know that this is part of the process, that they have to keep writing, even though what they're writing is likely to be thrown away. They know that they have to write, even if the writing is terrible, in order to have something to edit. You can edit a bad page, but you can't edit a blank one.

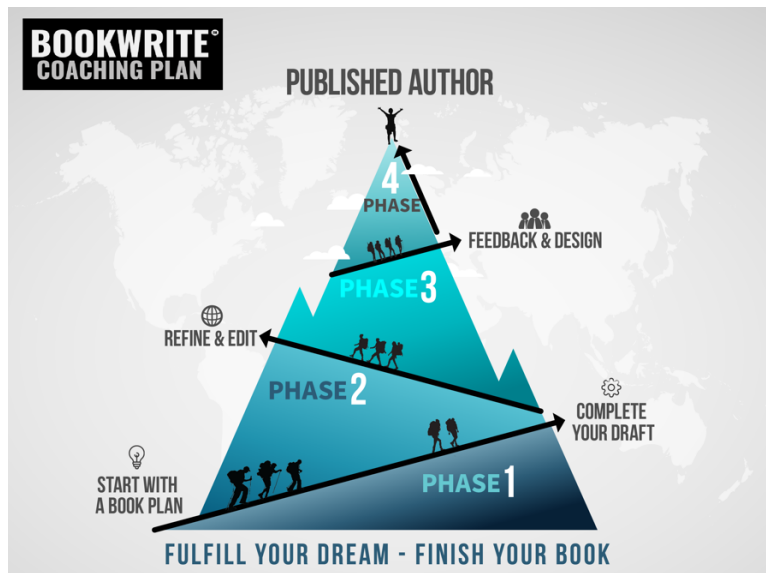
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