

Cheat Sheet: Video 2

Overcoming “Writers’ Block”, the “Muddy Middle”, and “What do I write next?”

- First, understand the premise and main conflict of your story that drives the premise.
- Make sure you include conflict and stakes so that your characters drive the action and tension in your story
- Use the 7 Key Elements to sketch out a basic, high-level story progression from beginning to end
- Map out every key scene you can think of with short bullet points – use legal cards or software and brainstorm (these can be changed later).
- Apply the Story Engines 7 Key Elements to put your rough scenes into order (see final page for a copy of the 7 Key Elements)
- Start “fleshing out the bones” of your rough scenes, don’t worry about writing scenes in order
- “Plotters vs Pantsers” does it matter? No – both styles can adapt this process, it’s the level of detail before starting the first draft that defines the difference

Cheat Sheet: Video 2

Overcoming “I don’t have enough hours in the day” - Using Your Time More Effectively and Supercharging Your Productivity

- Using the process above to plan out a rough list of scenes should take no more than 1 - 2 hours
- The next part is filling in the detail and actually sitting down to write
- Make sure your scenes are correctly laid out in the right order (see the 7 Key Elements on the next page)
- Start working on the scenes that excite you the most - don't worry about writing in chronological order (your scenes are all mapped out after all)
- This will make you more excited to write - and it will show you which scenes might not be 100% necessary to your story (eg - the ones you leave until last)
- Next, consider which parts of the day you are most effective - do you write better in the morning or the evening? Better to have 1 productive hour in the morning vs 3 unproductive hours at night.
- Write in short bursts using the “sprint” method. Write for 20 minutes, take a 2 - 5 minute break. Instead of thinking “oh my God I have an hour I need to write as much as possible”, split your daily work into 20 minute blocks and watch your speed increase.
- Knowing exactly what scene you'll be working on and what's going to happen will keep you on track

The 7 Key Elements

STORY BEGINNING

**PHASE #1
PREPARATION PHASE**

GAME CHANGER #1

**PHASE #2
REACTIVE PHASE**

GAME CHANGER #2

**PHASE #3
PROACTIVE PHASE**

GAME CHANGER #3

**PHASE #4
CONCLUSION PHASE**

STORY ENDING