



Step 1: Plan for Success

SEVEN STEPS WRITING TIPS

Series One

If you got a dollar for every time you told your kids to plan their work, you'd be living on a tropical island now, right???

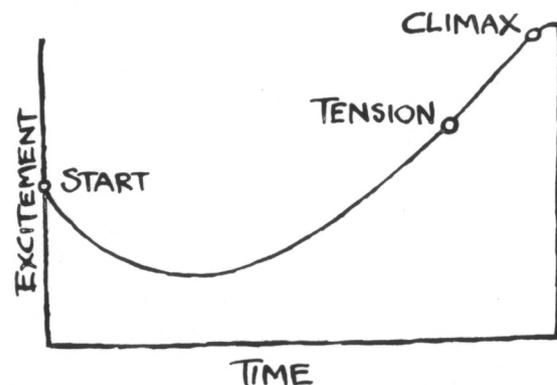
It's hard to show people HOW to plan, so here's a quick method. Good stories (like movies, books, poems and even jokes) are all planned - and they all have a similar structure. This is what it looks like.

1. Start with a bang - this usually has the main character in an action scene.
2. Back fill - the Who, What, Why is filled in while the action unfolds
3. The main problem is introduced
4. Complications and more problems. Things get very bad indeed
5. Tension scene where hero/heroine fights against incredible odds
6. Climax – incredibly, wonderfully they win!

Once writers know these basics, they have a SYSTEM to their planning - and this really improves their writing.

TOP TIP:

Think first, write second.
Draw yourself a graph like this one and plot your stories out BEFORE you start writing.



ACTION ACTIVITY:

Watch TV ads - you know the ones that 'tell a story.' In 30 seconds, some ads can create a start, tension scene and great ending, exactly like the story graph.

© Jen McVeity, author and National Literacy Champion

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TO WRITING SUCCESS