

Get Help with Improving Your Novel

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A busy lifestyle didn't leave much time to concentrate on writing, so I needed a tool to keep me focused. I researched and read lots of book in an attempt to design a plan. I used the knowledge of many experts, tested my theory then designed it into the concise formula in the guidebook, "Putting the Pep in Plotting". Send me a note and I'll mail you a copy. What the formula proved to me, and hopefully for you as well, is that the realization of reaching "The End" isn't as far away as you might think.

The first time I applied the concepts to my own writing, I finished the draft to "*When Dreams Float*" (274 pages) in less than ten days, and the draft for my fifth novel, "*Everlasting Moments*" (300 pages), was completed in about fifteen days. Of course, nothing else was done in that time period, so I now have a more conservative writing goal. But the formula did work for me and the good news is that I've sold the novels.

Helpful Tips for Writers!

1. In your novel give the reader someone to love, someone to hate.
2. Don't tell about your characters. Show who your characters are (personality, strengths, weaknesses) through their actions in the scene.
3. Give characters a sense of purpose in life, even if it is simply to survive.
4. Capitalize on conflict. It gives your story a pulse! Bad situations for characters = Good story line.
5. Build action into every scene, sentence and dialogue.
6. Use nouns and verbs before resorting to adjectives and adverbs.
7. Use power words.
8. Never repeat information.
9. Avoid small talk in dialogue. Make the character's discussion move story along.
10. Research your subject matter.
11. Describe things through the character's eyes. How the characters feel, see, smell, experience things.
12. When writing a scene, if you can't clearly establish a purpose then don't write it.
13. Subplots must be directly connected to the main plot.
14. Read a variety of books.
15. Study writing in the genre in which you want to be published.
16. Join Writer's Groups.
17. Consider Writing Contests. You can get valuable opinions because judges are writing professionals. Most writers' groups have access to contest information. REMEMBER that some *opinions* may be very critical so be prepared to hear your

stuff isn't Pulitzer quality. But who cares, you hadn't planned to win that at this point anyway! And *opinions* are just that... Take from them what is of value; trash the rest.

18. To improve your writing, write!
19. If suffering from writer's block, read!

Your Success Story

- Continue to hone your writing skills by studying the craft.
- Carve out a few hours a week to write. If you set a goal to write just 3-pages a day, in 3-months you'll have about a 270-page novel. Ways to carve out more time:
 - Watch LESS TV. It's amazing how much time the 'tube' takes away from writing
 - Wake up an hour earlier to use as writing time
 - If you commute by bus or train, use that time to write
 - Use your lunch time to be creative
 - Arrange with love ones that you need time/space on a certain day/time of the week for undisturbed writing.
- Get a copy of my free guidebook "[Putting the Pep in Plotting](#)" to help you get started. Pull from my formula the parts that can boost your creative juices and let me know your **Success Story**. I would love to include the elements of your success story in the nonfiction "how-to" book in development.
- Get your manuscript critiqued!
 - You can find folks who provide these services are: Local or national writer's groups, *Writer's Digest Magazine*, or search the Internet for the hundreds of possibilities. Shop around.
 - I provide manuscript critiques for unpublished writers, contact me about my services at DorothyELove@aol.com

"Love the desire to write and write the story you love..."
by Dorothy Elizabeth Love