

DAILY
WORDCOUNT
TRACKER

writing template



LAUREN LAYNE

a note from Lauren Layne



Hi there! I'm so thrilled you're joining me on the sometimes crazy, often difficult, but *always* rewarding journey of being a writer!

Whenever someone asks me the key to writing a book, to *finishing* a book, I generally warn them that the answer isn't as sexy as they want it to be.

The truth is, writing an entire book doesn't happen because of some magic trick or elusive secret. It happens because a handful of the gutsiest, most courageous, most *consistent* people put words on a blank page over and over again. That's me. And that's you.

The key to writing a book is to keep showing up. It's sitting at the computer when you don't want to, it's pushing through a scene even when it feels hard.

You want to know how your favorite authors do it? *They hit their target wordcount. And repeat.*

how to use this workbook

First, and most importantly, please be sure to save this file somewhere on your computer, as the download link from the Lauren Layne Shop expires within 24 hours!

While the PDF you're reading now has multiple pages, don't worry about printing them all every time. Pages 5-7 are where the magic happens. Those are the pages you'll actually print out and use for each writing day!

Please note that it may feel redundant to fill out page 6 before every writing session, but we highly recommend it. Even if your answers are the same from day-to-day, it's powerful to remind yourself every single day why you began this journey!

Optionally, I've created a bonus, free-form tracking page (page eight) if you have more than six writing sessions in a day!

This template was specifically designed by the Lauren Layne team to be printed and filled out by hand. We're all about technology, but we also know the good old-fashioned pen/paper route can be extremely rewarding.

Don't have access to a printer? You can also fill out this template electronically using a tablet, stylus (such as Apple Pencil) and compatible software.

on creating your writing routine



Let me first say, I'm going to go against the advice of some of the greats here and say: I don't think it's necessary to write every single day. I think daily writing *can* be helpful! And goodness knows, it can certainly help your wordcount accumulate faster! I also believe that everyone *can* carve out daily writing time. None of this "too busy" nonsense. *Everyone* thinks their schedule is busier than everyone else's. You're not special. *We all* have the exact same amount of hours in the day, we *all* have extra demands on our time, whether it's kids, or parents, or school, or medical concerns. And we can *all* find time to write, even if it's just two minutes while waiting for the coffee pot to do its thing, or a full chunk of time if you make the bold decision to skip your favorite TV show or "the big game" in order to prioritize your passion (writing).

That said, just because you *can* carve out minutes of every single day to put words on the page doesn't necessarily mean you *have* to, as many of the experts suggest. When I first started writing, I had *no* idea what I was doing. I mistakenly thought the only way *real* writers wrote was in huge, big chunks of time. Since I worked in the corporate world Monday-Friday, I wrote primarily on weekends. Every single weekend for months, I'd dedicate all day Saturday and Sunday to putting down 8,000-10,000 words down each day.

Yes, it's a lot. But I didn't *know* it was a lot (I had no point of reference!), and I think my ignorance saved me. Now that I know that sort of output is completely do-able, I have no grounds to whine, "I can't write that many words in a day!" Because I *know* I can. I've done it before! And yes, that weekend-warrior book got published, and yes, I still regularly write 8,000-10,000 words a day. And nope, I don't write every day! (I do *work* every day, but I take day off from an in-progress manuscript all the time!)

The point is, there are no rules to this whole writing thing. We make our own rules. The only thing you have to do is *to keep showing up*. Whether you're an everyday writer, or a weekend warrior, push yourself. Make time for your book, and your dream. It's worth it. *You're* worth it.

WORKING TITLE OF MANUSCRIPT

TODAY'S DATE

I WANT MY MANUSCRIPT
TO HAVE THIS MANY
WORDS WHEN I FINISH
WRITING TODAY:



minus

MY MANUSCRIPT IS
CURRENTLY THIS MANY
WORDS



equals

WHICH MEANS I NEED TO
WRITE THIS MANY WORDS
TODAY



what i'm writing today ...

Take a moment to think about your manuscript and which scene(s) you want to write next. This is not the place to go full-outline! Think of it as more of a daily writing to-do list to get your head back in your story before you open the manuscript. Jot down those "bits" you're excited to write in the space below.

your daily motivation

“It always seems impossible until it is done.”

- NELSON MANDELA

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO START THIS BOOK?

HOW WILL IT FEEL WHEN YOU FINISH THIS BOOK? HOW WILL YOU CELEBRATE?

IN YOUR DAYDREAMS, WHERE WILL THIS BOOK TAKE YOU? A BOOK TOUR? MOVIE-
PREMIERE? OPRAH BOOK CLUB? PRESTIGIOUS ACCOLADES? PLUSH BANK ACCOUNT?

WHEN WRITING FEELS HARD TODAY, WHY WILL YOU KEEP GOING?

“A year from now, you'll wish you had started today.”

- KAREN LAMB

word count tracking

SESSION 1

starting time starting wordcount goal ending wordcount ending time ending wordcount words written

SESSION 2

starting time starting wordcount goal ending wordcount ending time ending wordcount words written

SESSION 3

starting time starting wordcount goal ending wordcount ending time ending wordcount words written

SESSION 4

starting time starting wordcount goal ending wordcount ending time ending wordcount words written

SESSION 5

starting time starting wordcount goal ending wordcount ending time ending wordcount words written

SESSION 6

starting time starting wordcount goal ending wordcount ending time ending wordcount words written

MY WORDCOUNT TOTAL =

AND I FEEL ...

word count tracking

SESSION #

starting time starting wordcount goal ending wordcount ending time ending wordcount words written

SESSION #

starting time starting wordcount goal ending wordcount ending time ending wordcount words written

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MY WORDCOUNT TOTAL =

AND I FEEL ...