

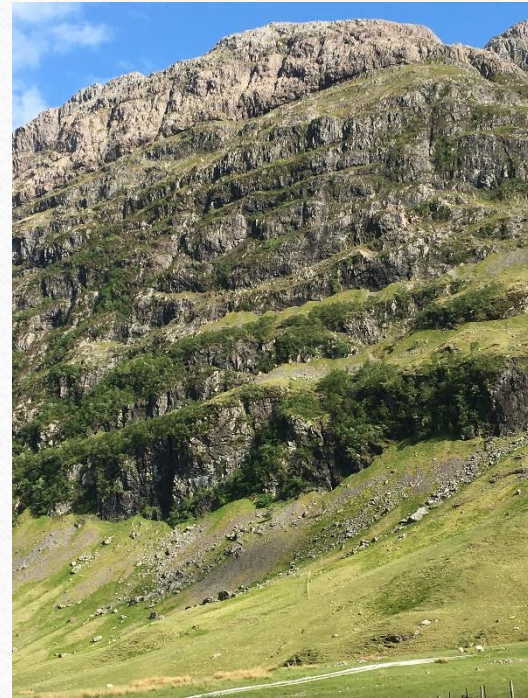
Finding Your Motivation

Strategies For Writers

By Brenda Hasse

The Mountains Writers Climb

- Writer's block
- Too busy
- Life gets in the way
- Too many distractions



Breaking Through Writer's Block

- Step away from your computer – give your brain a rest by doing something mundane – fold laundry, weed the garden, wash car
- Let your mind become bored. Set a timer for 30 minutes, quiet room, stare at the blank page, relax
- Keep paper and pen near by - next to bed, record notes on cell phone
- Others?

Making It A Habit

- Schedule a writing time – morning, noon, evening
- Consistent writing time – daily, days per week
- Attend a weekly writing group
- Other options?

Life Gets In The Way

- Unexpected events happen – company, funeral
- Do your best to write when possible
- Don't stress
- Be flexible – priorities change for a day or two

Time Easily Wasted

- Avoid social media and email
- Write at a coffee shop, library, etc. - do not use the internet – look up information later
- Look up information in a book – DK
- Know what you are going to write
- If possible, use two laptops

Getting Focused

- Individual Writers
- Groups

Individual Writers

- Writing goals
 - Set a time of day to write
 - Number of pages or word count
 - Write for a length of time – minutes, hour(s)

Individual Writers

- Other goals
 - Update website
 - Contact bookstores
 - Scheduling book signings
 - Marketing – bookmarks, swag, banners
 - Blog/Newsletter
 - Press – newspaper, radio, video, tv

Groups For Writers

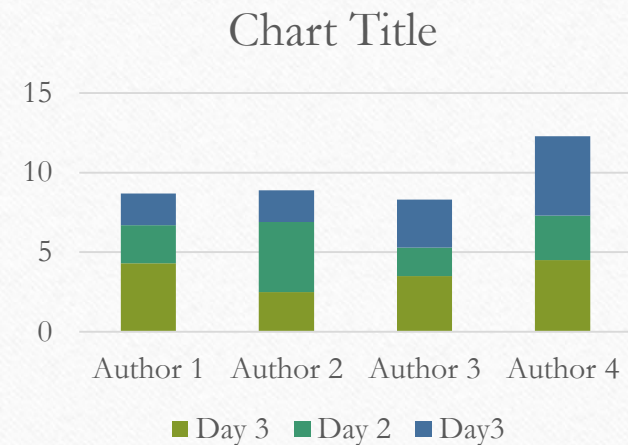
- Brain Storming – marketing, publishing, cover design, etc.
- Workshop/Writing – NaNo, retreats
- Critique – share writing

Brain Storming Group

- Goals
 - Select meeting topic
 - Encourage everyone to share ideas on topic
 - Take notes and post on website/group page
 - Organize group activities – signings, retreats

Workshop / Writing Group

- Goals
 - Individual – set word count goal, bar graph on a white/poster board
 - Chart writer's daily progress
 - Chart group's progress



Other Activities for Workshop / Writing Group

- Word Wars – have writers pull a word count number from a bowl/basket, timed write for 15 minutes, reward with sticker, additional prize for highest word count
- Celebrate success even if individual / group goals are not reached
- Silly awards

Critique Group

- Encourage writers to share their work – fiction, non-fiction, poetry, outline, manuscript, synopsis
- Limit number of pages
- Goals
 - At end of meeting have writers set a goal for the following meeting
 - Before they read what they brought to share, they state if they achieved or partially achieved their goal

Advantage of Goals

- Sense of accomplishment – crossed off tasks
- Pushes you to achieve your commitment
- Held accountable by others
- Long range goals become possible
- Time management

Falling Short Of Goals

- Any step toward a goal is still a step forward
- Reevaluate goals – were they unrealistic?
- Refocus and retry
- Not in a writing group, buddy with a fellow author for motivation

Ben Franklin's Quote

- “Take care of the pennies and the dollars take care of themselves.”
- The Author's Vow
 - “Write the words and the sentences, paragraphs, pages, chapters, and books write themselves.”

Looking Ahead

- Long term goals
 - Daily – word count
 - Weekly – page count
 - Monthly – chapter count
 - Yearly – publish a number of books per year

Make It So!

- Remember baby steps toward your goal
- Keep pushing yourself and group members forward – support each other
- Keep the keys on your keyboard clicking! Happy writing!