



KWA Presentation by Chris Davies



Remember, you are 10 times more likely to achieve your goals if you write them down!



Choosing Your Goal

1. What do you want to accomplish with your writing?
2. How much time are you willing to devote to your goal?
3. What is your motivation for accomplishing your goal?



Planning how to achieve your goal

- 1. Once you've isolated your goal what is the next step?
- 2. Planning. (Organization will be discussed later.)
 - How will you go about achieving it?
 - How much time do you need to allot?
 - What do you do if you backslide?
 - Have yourself arrested and placed in a jail cell.
 - Pick up where you left off and continue with a good attitude
 - Try to make up lost effort



Goal Setting tips: SMART System

- S - Specific - Clear and well-defined
- M - Measurable - Know when the goal has been reached
- A - Attainable - Realistic given time a resources
- R - Relevant - In line with your overall aim
- T - Time-based - Set a deadline that you want to reach the goal by



Examples for writers:

- 1. Write 2000 words every weekend.
- 2. Finish a project by the end of the year.
- 3. Start building your author profile and set up a website.
- 4. Create and use social media – plan to attract 200 followers.
- 5. Read one book in your genre and one book outside your genre every month.
- 6. Pitch to give a talk at five literary events (including KWA).



Develop your Strategies

- 1. Write <250> words per day
- 2. Write for <1 hour> each day
- 3. Read a book on writing that improves your skills
- 4. Join a social media group that advances your writing skills
- 5. Work with prompts or other writing exercises that improve your skills.



Sample Goal

- **Goal: I want to complete a 75,000-word Historical Romance manuscript this year.**

Specific? Somewhat, I could be more specific.

Measurable? Yes, it must be complete, and it must be 75,000 words

Attainable? Yes, if I write 250 words per day and allow myself 65 non-writing days. (250x365=91,500)

Relevant? Who knows?

Time-based? Yes, I have given myself one year to achieve this goal.

Accountable? Not yet.

Reward? Consequences? None yet.



Break it down

My vision is: **To publish a book** _____ .

My specific goal that is RELEVANT to this vision is: **To complete a 75,000-word Historical Novel manuscript** _____ .

By **April** ___ I will have **25,000 words** _____ .

By **August** ___ I will have **50,000 words** _____ .

By **December** I will have **75,000 words** _____ .



Goal Setting Hacks

- 1. Set small goals: Break down larger goals into manageable pieces.
- 2. Focus: If you're struggling, re-evaluate the goals making them more achievable.
- 3. Prompt yourself by making your goals visible - i.e. post-it notes on your computer or repeat the goals aloud every day.
- 4. Determine what motivates you – promise of pleasure or fear of pain. Give yourself a reward for meeting your goals.



Manage the things you can control

- Review your goal and determine those things you can control.
- For example, you may have a goal to send out 100 query letters, but you cannot control the results.
- You may have a goal to write <250> words per day, and you can control whether you do it or not by adjusting your activities.
- Re-evaluate your goals if you find them too difficult to meet. You may have bitten off more than you can chew, or you may not have control over their success.



Breaking down your goal

- If it is overwhelming to think about writing an entire book, break it down into a certain number of pages per week.
- To some that may be overwhelming, if so, break it down to so many pages per day.
- Keep in mind that if you write 250 words per day, you will have written a 91,250-word manuscript in a year. **Just one page per day.**



Four more tips:

- 1. Reflect on what has worked for you in the past, and what hasn't. Competitions, Deadlines, NaNoWriMo, Writing with friends?
- 2. Reconnect periodically with your desires – why did you choose this goal? Remember your original vision.
- 3. What will you quit? Think about bad habits that keep you from achieving your goal. Can you quit?
- 4.. Set a deadline and create a consequence. If I meet my weekly/monthly goal I'll treat myself to something I want, if I don't, I'll make myself vacuum the house.



Writers Digest Tips:

- 1. Set Realistic Goals
- 2. Take baby steps – smaller and consistent is better
- 3. Keep a progress journal or spreadsheet
- 4. We demand progress from our characters, demand it of yourself.
- 5. Keep a positive attitude
- 6. Be accountable to a buddy or to this group
- 7. Do it for you.



What is my goal?



My SMART action plan: