

This document turns the process into a list of questions that you can answer to complete the process

Step 1 record Ideas:

Always have a notepad, or a note taking app available off line as well as on line.

As you capture the idea, think about these questions:

1. Is this idea urgent?
2. Is this idea a story idea?
3. Is this idea about character, plot, or setting?

Answering these three questions will only take a second, but may help you with the first step of the assessment.

Step 2 Assess the ideas.

In this pass, you are reviewing the ideas in your files, and deciding which of them you will work on.

Answer these questions

1. Does this idea mean something to me right now?
2. Can I imagine the story that will come from this idea?
3. Can I imagine the characters who will fill the cast?

Step 3 First Assessment: what happens next, what could happen?

What happens next?

- How did this situation start?
- What are the stakes involved for the victim? For the hero? For the Villain?
- What motivation makes sense for the inciting incident?
- Are the stakes high enough to drive a story?

What could happen next?

- What is the setting?
- What time is this story set in?

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What is the conflict?

1. What is the internal conflict that the hero battles throughout the story?
2. What is the core conflict between the villain and hero?

These two questions will help you to understand if you have enough of an idea to hold a short story, novel, or series. The longer the story, the more complexity you need to support it.

Step 4 Second assessment: test the plot/conflict/character.

The short story of the conflict lock is that the actions of the two main characters need to cause the conflict they face. The longer version is my Write the Book Inside You course. Answering these questions will tell you if your hero and villain are lock tightly enough into conflict to drive a story.

Hero	Villain
Goal – what does this character want?	Goal – what does this character want?
Actions – how do they try to achieve their goal?	Actions – how do they try to achieve their goal?
Conflict – what is getting in the way of the character achieving their goal?	Conflict – what is getting in the way of the character achieving their goal?

