A Checklist for Writing Your First Novel

This is an extra resource to go along with the original article:
[A Step-By-Step Guide to Writing Your First Novel](#)

- ❏ Resolve to finish your novel by a set time. [Here's advice on how to start your novel](#).
- ❏ Develop a basic story idea. If you need help, check out this post: [Turn Your Idea Into a Novel With These Tips](#)
- ❏ Interview your main characters. Check out this post: [6 Tips to Avoid Writing Cliched Characters](#)
- ❏ Create a backstory for each main character. [Use these 5 tips to create a backstory](#).
- ❏ Create internal and external conflicts for the main characters and then insert tension. Learn more here: [Tension! What It Is & How to Develop It In Your Novel](#)
- ❏ Select a point of view for your story. [Check out this informative guide on points of view](#).
- ❏ Choose a theme for your story. [Here are tips for choosing the perfect theme for your story](#).
- ❏ Build a world for your story. [Here's a guide for world creation](#).
- ❏ Develop a plot. Check out this post for plot-related advice: [Tips for Balancing Characterization With Plot](#)
- ❏ Insert subplots. [Here's why subplots are important](#).
- ❏ Raise the stakes. [Here's how to raise the stakes in your novel and create a gripping story](#).
- ❏ Outline your story. [Find detailed advice on outlining here](#).

- ❏ Set the following deadlines:
  - ❏ Story development
  - ❏ Research
  - ❏ Outline
  - ❏ Daily word count
  - ❏ First draft
  - ❏ Chapter revision
  - ❏ Second draft
  - ❏ Round of professional edits
  - ❏ Revisions based on professional edits
- ❏ Create a writing schedule. [Here's advice on how to schedule the time to write](#).
- ❏ Set up your workspace. Check out this post: [A Guide to Setting Up the Perfecting Writing Space](#)
- ❏ Sit down and write. [Here's why you should write your novel now (not later)](#).
- ❏ Don't let writer's block slow you down. Check out this post: [Tips for Getting Over Writer's Block](#)
- ❏ Edit your draft. [Use these self-editing tips](#).
- ❏ Nail the ending. [Here's everything you need to know about writing endings](#).
- ❏ Hire a professional editor. [Here's how our editing process works](#).