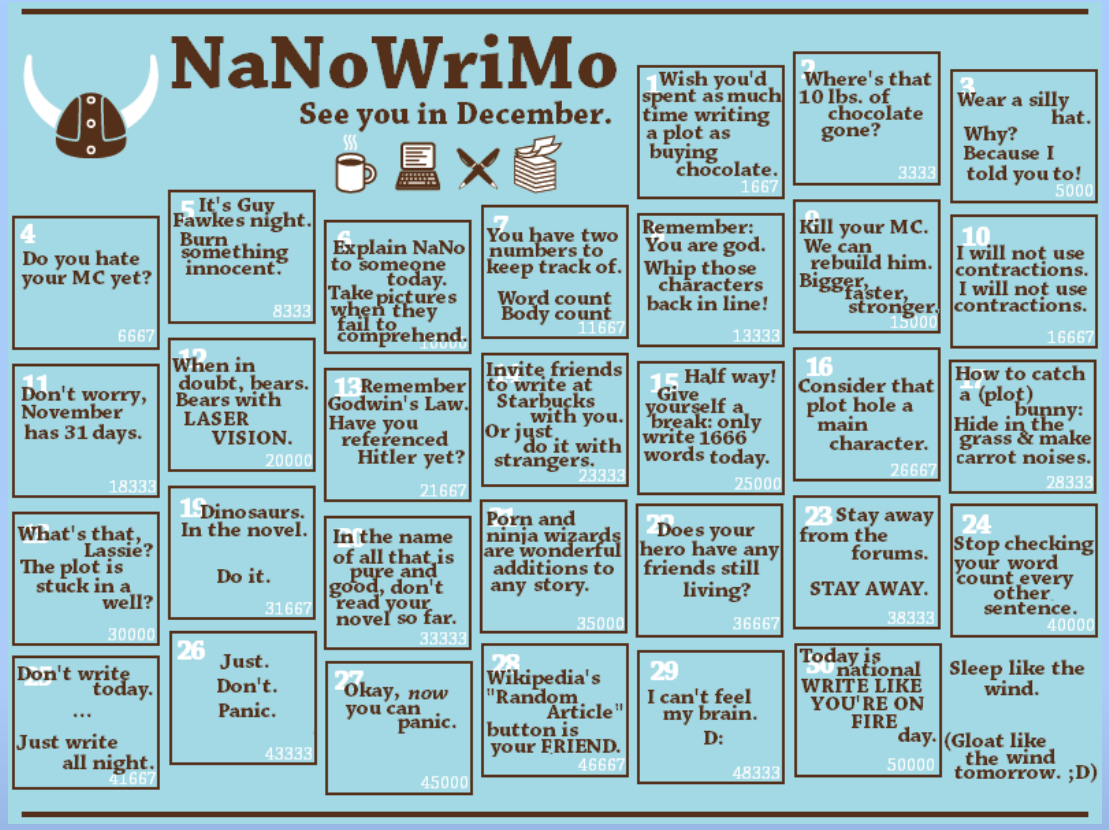
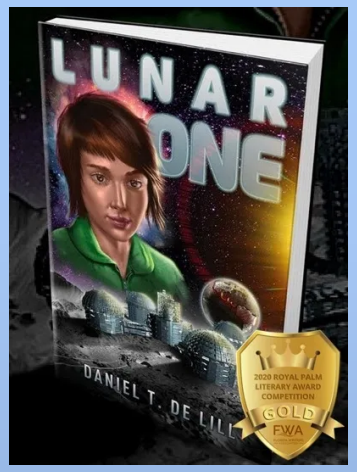
NaNo Prep Camp

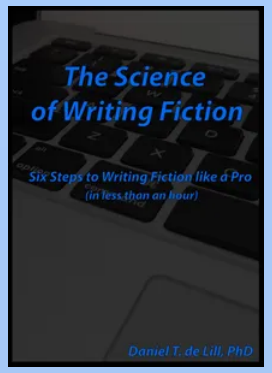
Dr. Daniel T. de Lill
Instructor of Chemistry & Research Associate
Florida Atlantic University
Wilkes Honors College
ddelill@fau.edu



Hi!!!

- A little about me
  - Grew up in PA
    - BA in French and Chemistry – Lock Haven University of PA
    - MPhil and PhD – Inorganic Chemistry, The George Washington University (DC)
    - NSF Postdoc – University of Nevada, Reno
    - >10 years of university teaching and research
      - ~30 journal publications
    - Science Fiction writer/author
      - Gold Royal Palm Literary Award – Lunar One
      - LRH's WOTF Contest Honorable Mention (x5) – NanoVax; Gods of Titan
    - Non-fiction writer/author





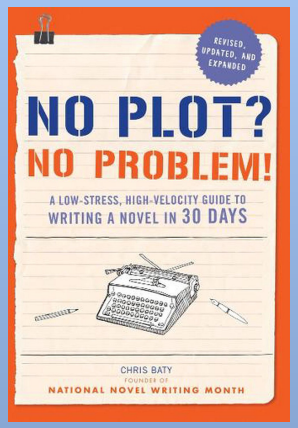


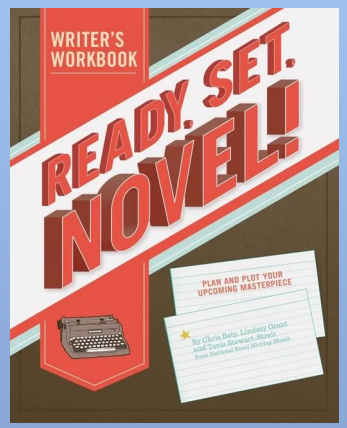
NaNoWriMo – National Novel Writing Month

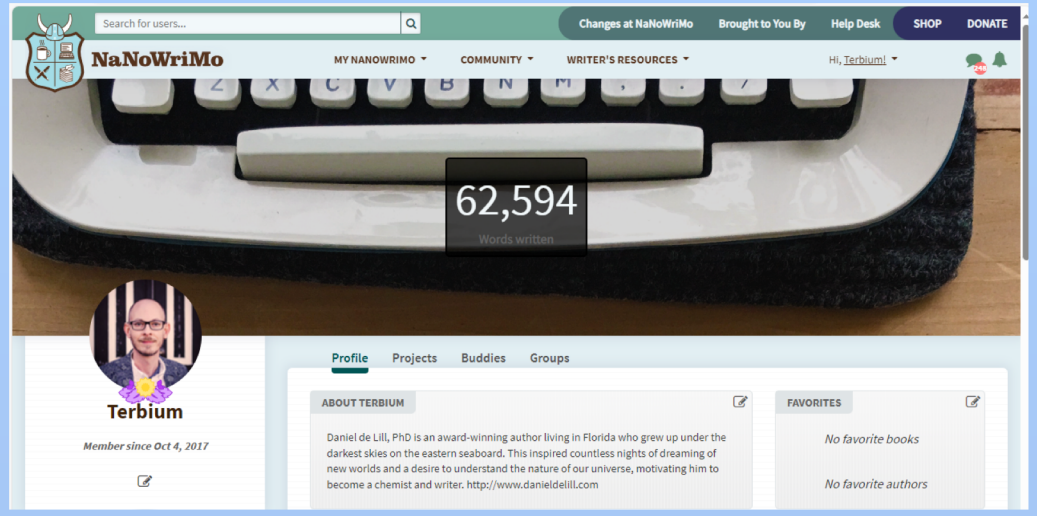
- Each November
  - Write the first draft (at least 50,000 words) of a novel in 30 days
    - Just shy of 1700 words/day
  - Now >400,000 participants
    - 11-19% “winners”
- Tons of free resources!
  - Online Profile
    - Tracker, badges
  - Community Events (online and local)
  - Preparation Resources
  - After NaNo Resources

http://www.nanowrimo.org

National Novel Writing Month

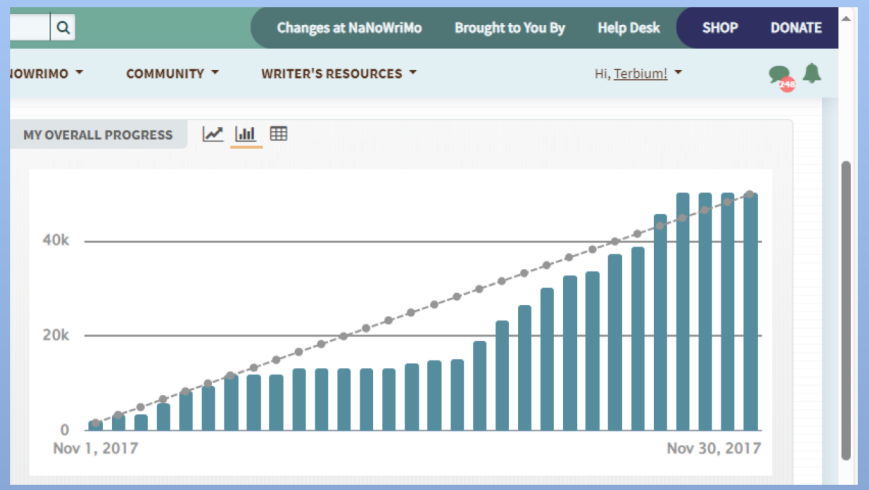


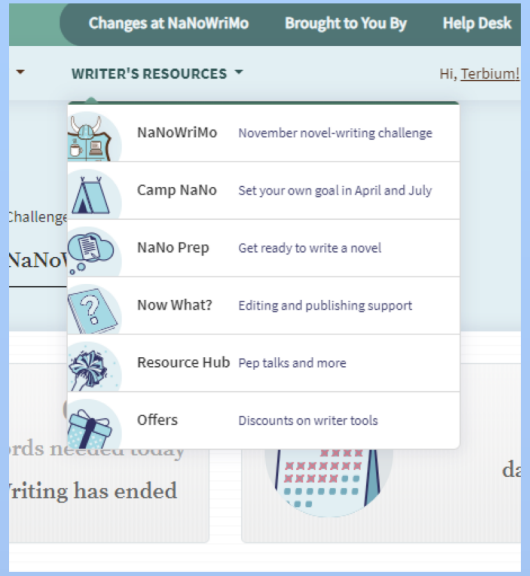


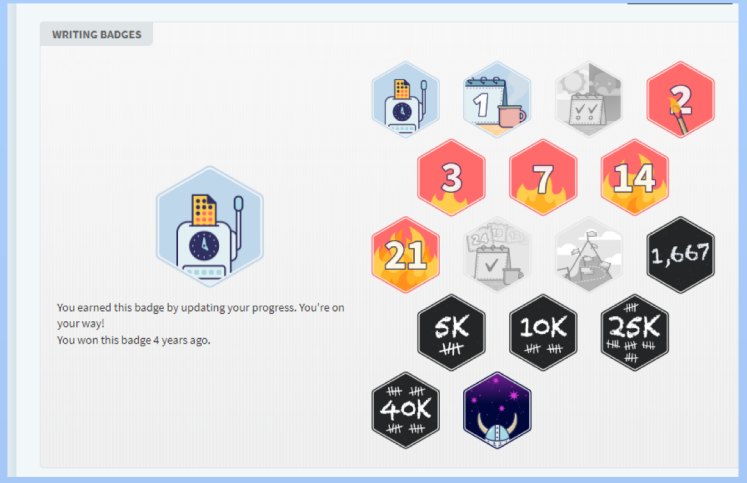

Search for users...
Changes at NaNoWriMo
Brought to You By
Help Desk
SHOP
DONATE
NaNoWriMo
MY NANOWRIMO
COMMUNITY
WRITER'S RESOURCES
Hi, Terbium!
62,594
Words written
Terbium
Member since Oct 4, 2017
Profile
Projects
Buddies
Groups
ABOUT TERBIUM
Daniel de Lill, PhD is an award-winning author living in Florida who grew up under the darkest skies on the eastern seaboard. This inspired countless nights of dreaming of new worlds and a desire to understand the nature of our universe, motivating him to become a chemist and writer. http://www.danieldelill.com
FAVORITES
No favorite books
No favorite authors

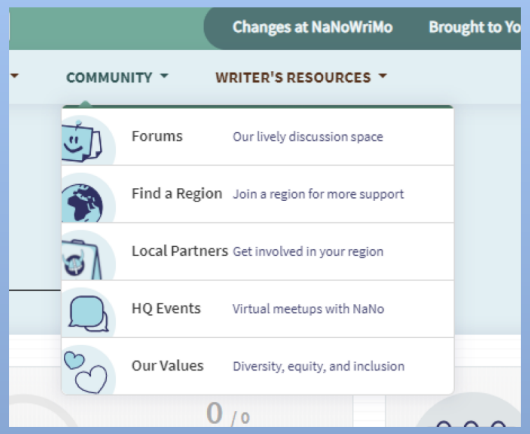

NaNoWriMo
PROGRESS UPDATES
+ Add new update
MY OVERALL PROGRESS
Nov 9, 2017 0 words
Nov 8, 2017 0 words
Nov 7, 2017 2300 words
Nov 6, 2017 1030 words
Nov 5, 2017 2550 words
Nov 4, 2017 2500 words
Nov 3, 2017 0 words
Nov 2, 2017 1330 words
Nov 1, 2017 2300 words
40k
20k
0
Nov 1, 2017
Nov 30, 2017
WHEN I WRITE
The early bird gets the worm!
You write the most between
7:00AM and 8:00AM!
MY DAILY WORD COUNT
6k
4k
2k
0
Nov 1, 2017
Nov 30, 2017

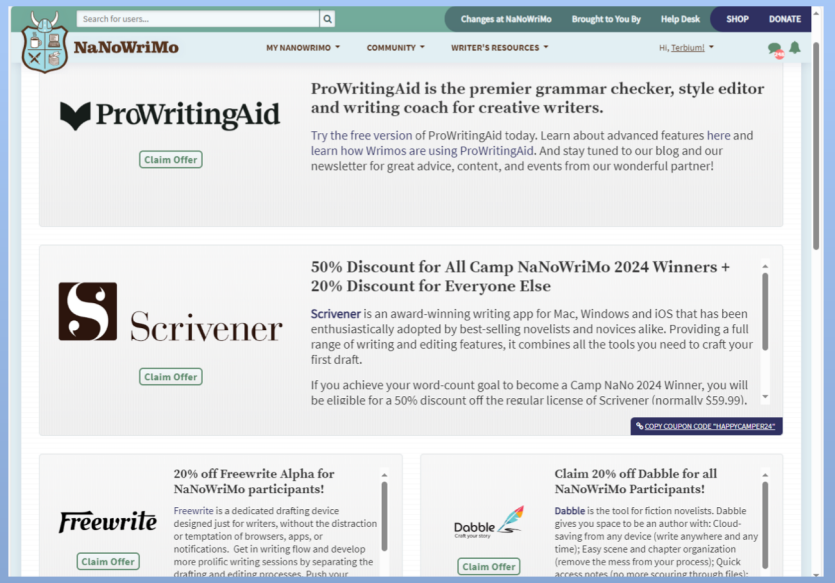

NaNoWriMo
Project:
Lunar One
Challenge:
NaNoWriMo 2017
50616 / 50000
total words
0 / 0
words needed today
Writing has ended
0
days in a row
PROGRESS UPDATES
+ Add new update
MY OVERALL PROGRESS
40k
20k
0
Nov 1, 2017
Nov 30, 2017

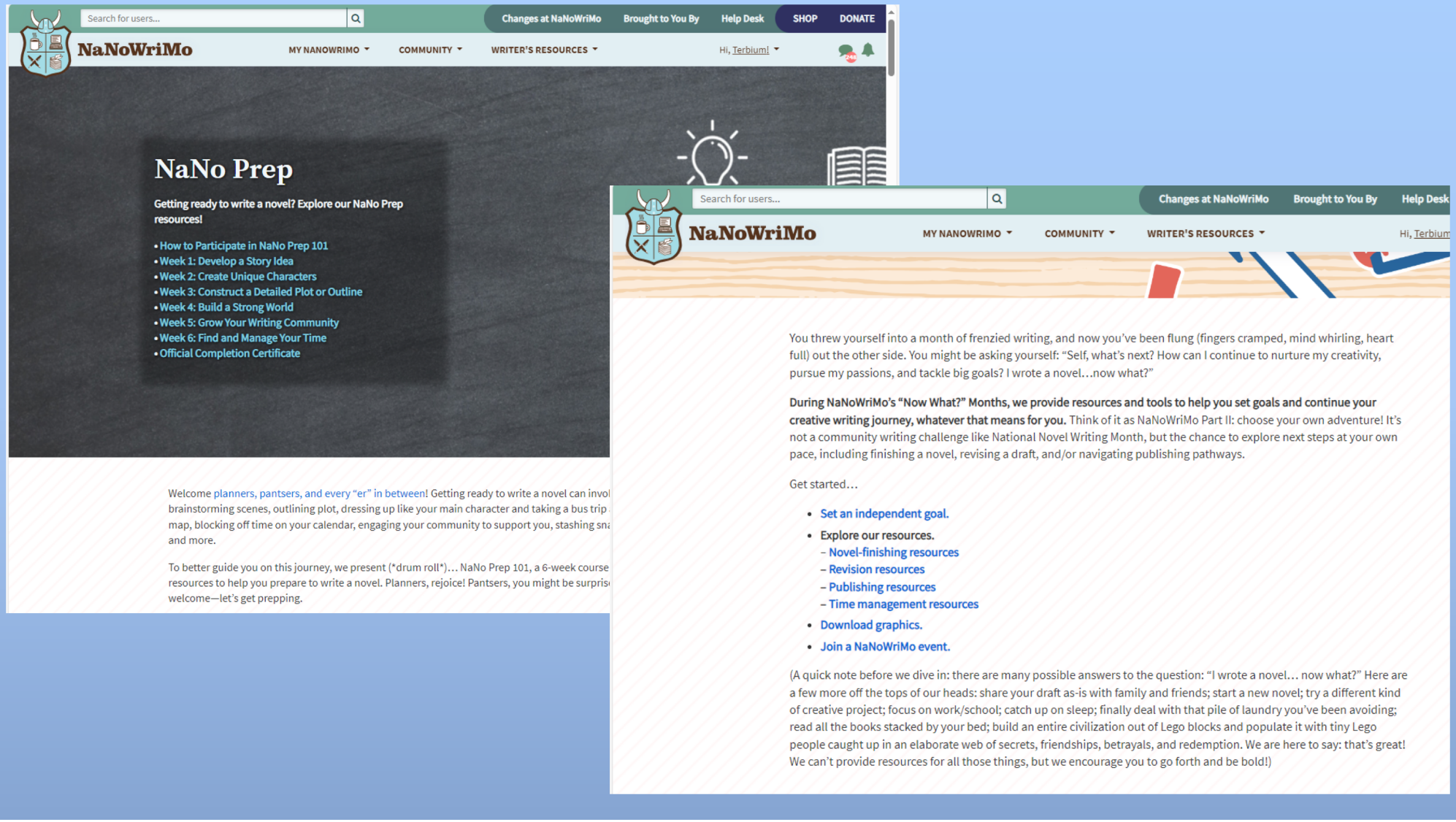

Changes at NaNoWriMo
Brought to You By
Help Desk
SHOP
DONATE
COMMUNITY
WRITER'S RESOURCES
Hi, Terbium!
MY OVERALL PROGRESS
40k
20k
0
Nov 1, 2017
Nov 30, 2017


Changes at NaNoWriMo
Brought to You By
Help Desk
WRITER'S RESOURCES
Hi, Terbium!
NaNoWriMo
November novel-writing challenge
Camp NaNo
Set your own goal in April and July
NaNo Prep
Get ready to write a novel
Now What?
Editing and publishing support
Resource Hub
Pep talks and more
Offers
Discounts on writer tools
Writing has ended


WRITING BADGES
You earned this badge by updating your progress. You're on your way!
You won this badge 4 years ago.
2
3
7
14
21
1,667
5K
10K
25K
40K


Changes at NaNoWriMo
Brought to Yo
COMMUNITY
WRITER'S RESOURCES
Forums
Our lively discussion space
Find a Region
Join a region for more support
Local Partners
Get involved in your region
HQ Events
Virtual meetups with NaNo
Our Values
Diversity, equity, and inclusion
0 / 0


Search for users...
Changes at NaNoWriMo
Brought to You By
Help Desk
SHOP
DONATE
NaNoWriMo
MY NANOWRIMO
COMMUNITY
WRITER'S RESOURCES
Hi, Terbium!
ProWritingAid
Claim Offer
ProWritingAid is the premier grammar checker, style editor and writing coach for creative writers.
Try the free version of ProWritingAid today. Learn about advanced features here and learn how Wrimos are using ProWritingAid. And stay tuned to our blog and our newsletter for great advice, content, and events from our wonderful partner!
Scrivener
Claim Offer
50% Discount for All Camp NaNoWriMo 2024 Winners + 20% Discount for Everyone Else
Scrivener is an award-winning writing app for Mac, Windows and iOS that has been enthusiastically adopted by best-selling novelists and novices alike. Providing a full range of writing and editing features, it combines all the tools you need to craft your first draft.
If you achieve your word-count goal to become a Camp NaNo 2024 Winner, you will be eligible for a 50% discount off the regular license of Scrivener (normally $59.99).
COPY COUPON CODE "HAPPYCAMPER24"
Freewrite
Claim Offer
20% off Freewrite Alpha for NaNoWriMo participants!
Freewrite is a dedicated drafting device designed just for writers, without the distraction or temptation of browsers, apps, or notifications. Get in writing flow and develop more prolific writing sessions by separating the
Dabble
Claim Offer
Claim 20% off Dabble for all NaNoWriMo Participants!
Dabble is the tool for fiction novelists. Dabble gives you space to be an author with: Cloud-saving from any device (write anywhere and any time); Easy scene and chapter organization (remove the mess from your process); Quick


Search for users...
Changes at NaNoWriMo
Brought to You By
Help Desk
SHOP
DONATE
NaNoWriMo
MY NANOWRIMO
COMMUNITY
WRITER'S RESOURCES
Hi, Terbium!
NaNo Prep
Getting ready to write a novel? Explore our NaNo Prep resources!
• How to Participate in NaNo Prep 101
• Week 1: Develop a Story Idea
• Week 2: Create Unique Characters
• Week 3: Construct a Detailed Plot or Outline
• Week 4: Build a Strong World
• Week 5: Grow Your Writing Community
• Week 6: Find and Manage Your Time
• Official Completion Certificate
Welcome planners, pantsers, and every "er" in between! Getting ready to write a novel can invol
brainstorming scenes, outlining plot, dressing up like your main character and taking a bus trip
map, blocking off time on your calendar, engaging your community to support you, stashing sna
and more.
To better guide you on this journey, we present (*drum roll*)… NaNo Prep 101, a 6-week course
resources to help you prepare to write a novel. Planners, rejoice! Pantsers, you might be surpris
welcome—let's get prepping.
Search for users...
Changes at NaNoWriMo
Brought to You By
Help Desk
NaNoWriMo
MY NANOWRIMO
COMMUNITY
WRITER'S RESOURCES
Hi, Terbium
You threw yourself into a month of frenzied writing, and now you've been flung (fingers cramped, mind whirling, heart full) out the other side. You might be asking yourself: "Self, what's next? How can I continue to nurture my creativity, pursue my passions, and tackle big goals? I wrote a novel…now what?"
During NaNoWriMo's "Now What?" Months, we provide resources and tools to help you set goals and continue your creative writing journey, whatever that means for you. Think of it as NaNoWriMo Part II: choose your own adventure! It's not a community writing challenge like National Novel Writing Month, but the chance to explore next steps at your own pace, including finishing a novel, revising a draft, and/or navigating publishing pathways.
Get started…
• Set an independent goal.
• Explore our resources.
– Novel-finishing resources
– Revision resources
– Publishing resources
– Time management resources
• Download graphics.
• Join a NaNoWriMo event.
(A quick note before we dive in: there are many possible answers to the question: "I wrote a novel… now what?" Here are a few more off the tops of our heads: share your draft as-is with family and friends; start a new novel; try a different kind of creative project; focus on work/school; catch up on sleep; finally deal with that pile of laundry you've been avoiding; read all the books stacked by your bed; build an entire civilization out of Lego blocks and populate it with tiny Lego people caught up in an elaborate web of secrets, friendships, betrayals, and redemption. We are here to say: that's great! We can't provide resources for all those things, but we encourage you to go forth and be bold!)

Search for users...

Changes at NaNoWriMo | Brought to You By | Hel

NaNoWriMo

MY NANOWRIMO | COMMUNITY | WRITER'S RESOURCES | Hi, J

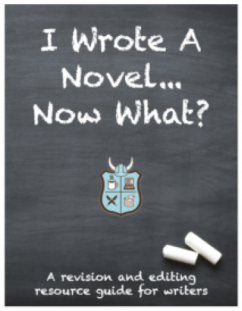
Revision Resources

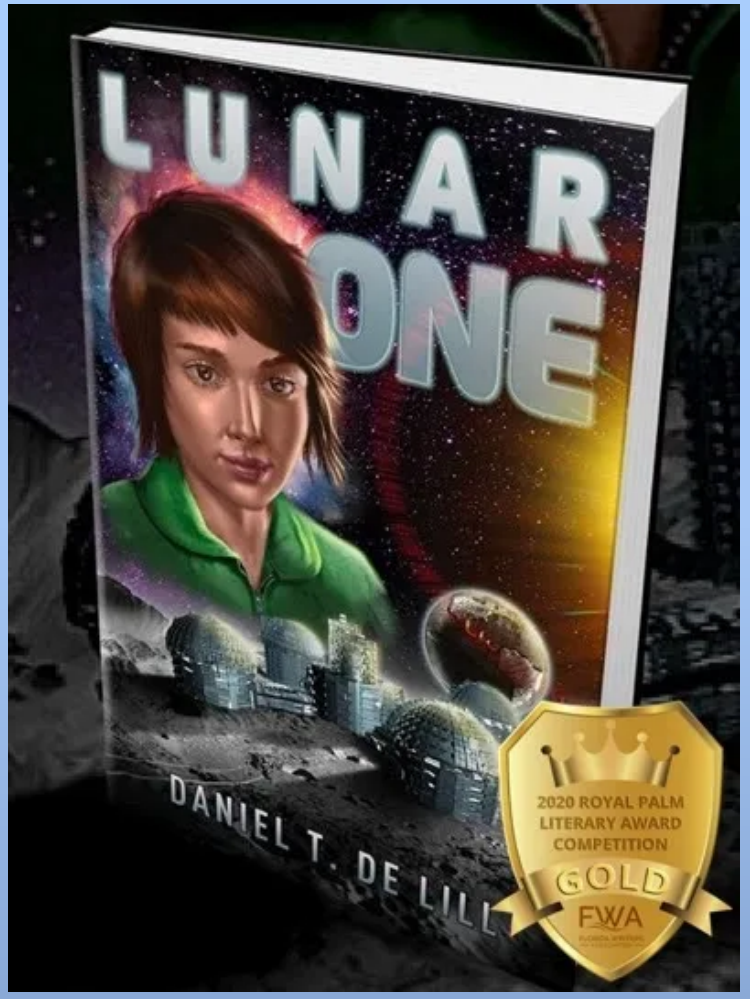
Maybe you're just dipping your littlest toe in the glorious mud puddle that is revision, or maybe you've been wading through the wordy muck for years and are ready to share your manuscript with the world. We hope you find something here that supports you, whether that's a revision guide, a video, a blog post, an editor or agent event, or something else!

All Revision Resources

A few revision highlights:

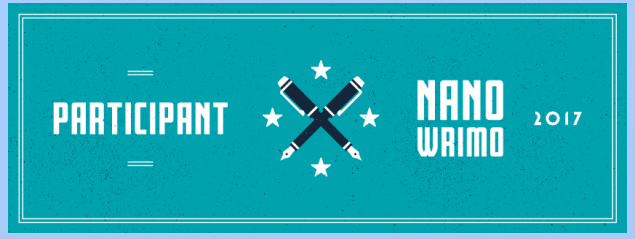
- Download our "Now What?" Revision Guide!
- Revision and publishing articles in the NaNoWriMo blog, including…
  - "A 7-Step Guide to Big Picture Revision"
  - "4 Things to Focus On In Your First Big Rewrite"
  - "Breaking Your First Draft Apart"
- Check out our full playlist of videos providing revision, editing, and publishing tips!

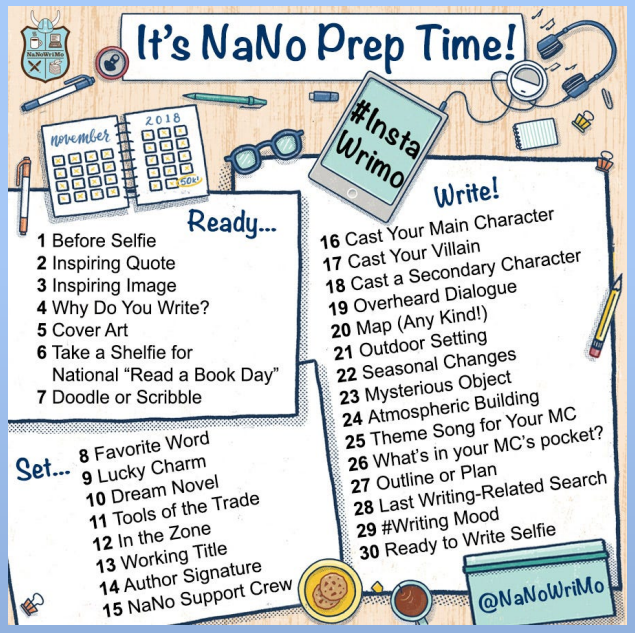




Fall 2024 FAU NaNo Challenge

- Pre-NaNo Prep
  - October
  - Call for Participants
  - Pre-assessment assignment
  - Four Workshops
    - “NaNo Prep Camp”, “Save the Cat Saves NaNoWriMo”; “Make ‘Em Cry”; “After NaNo”
  - Goal: Plot Outline (minimum), Scene-by-scene breakdown (ultimate)
- NaNoWriMo
  - November
  - Ten “Write-In” sessions on Zoom (15 hours of writing)
  - Minimum Word Count: 30,000 (though, 50K would be better!)
- Post-NaNo
  - December
  - Wrap-Up Survey; Maybe revise and publish!

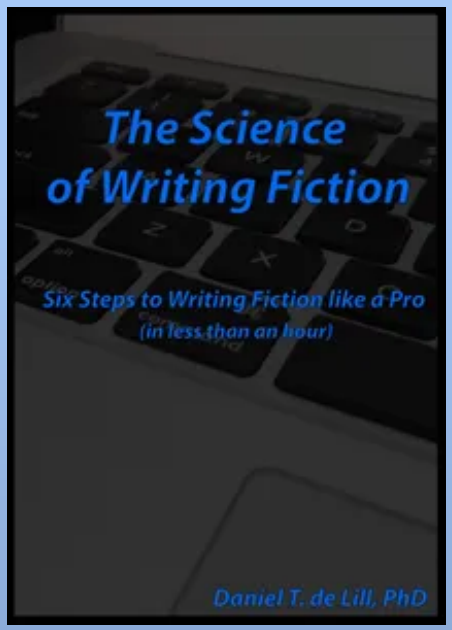




http://www.danieldelill.com/nano

Prepping for NaNo

- One way to help ensure victory in November is prep work!
  - Use **free resources** at danieldelill.com/nano if you're new to creative writing or unsure how to begin
    - The Science of Writing Fiction
    - Quick Start Novel Guide
  - Purchase or borrow any or all of the recommend resources
  - Perouse my writing blog, The Blob! for some useful suggestions/tips
  - Review the NaNoWriMo.org NaNo Prep Resources
- Four Prep Steps to Complete in October
  - **Develop a story idea**
    - Try to write an "elevator pitch" for your idea
  - **Create your characters**
    - We'll have a workshop to help you out here
  - **Construct your plot**
    - We'll have a workshop to help you out here
    - Preparing a scene-by-scene breakdown would be best
  - **Build your fictional world**
    - From starships or wizards to a seaside cottage in the summer of 1953



Elevator Pitch – Lunar One

A dystopian adventure about a young woman's quest to unlock the ghastly secrets behind life on her lunar home.

A lot of details divulged here!

Dystopian young/new adult novel with science fiction elements (dystopian, young woman, lunar home) filled with mystery, thrills, and/or suspense (adventure, quest, unlock ghastly secrets)

Elevator Pitch - Formula

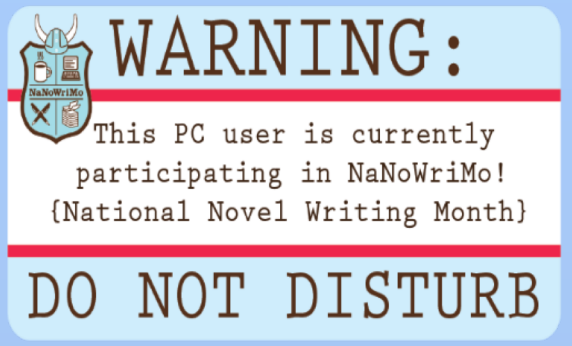
- **Situation** or Premise
  - A dystopian adventure that takes place on the moon
- **Main Character** (name optional; use a descriptor of some kind)
  - A young woman
- **Primary Objective** (what MC wants)
  - Discover and unlock the secrets behind life on Lunar One
- Can expand and make into a longer pitch or even a full book summary (see right)
  - (**Bad Guy**)
  - (**Impending Doom**)

Two hundred years after a massive event annihilates all life on Earth, the last of humanity survives on a moon colony called Lunar One (**SITUATION**). Young Amia (**MAIN CHARACTER**) undergoes the year-long Stage to live among the different societies, or pagodas, of Lunar One before selecting the one she will join (first **OBJECTIVE**). For Amia, life is simple, her society flawless (a hint at **IMPENDING DOOM**; what's at stake here).

During the Stage, Amia's idyllic world begins to unravel as she learns the ghastly truths behind life on Lunar One - a sinister web of danger, betrayal, and mystery that makes the most difficult decision of her life impossible (second **OBJECTIVE**). With enemies lurking around every corner and uncertain whom to trust (**BAD GUY**), can Amia bring down an obsolete and unjust system (final **OBJECTIVE**)at the risk of human extinction (**DOOM**)?

During NaNo

- Set up your free profile at nanowrimo.org
  - Consider donating if you are able to
  - Buying cool swag is another way to donate!
- Hold yourself accountable
  - Schedule time to write each day
    - Get up an hour earlier or block off a time each day, perhaps over lunch
    - Create a local in-person writing group
  - Track your daily results
    - Share with friends and colleagues; post to social media
  - Attend Zoom write-in sessions whenever you can
    - You don't have to stay the entire session; log in and out whenever you like
  - Browse my blog The Blob! when you need a break from the writing or need inspiration







A Couple of Tips to Make it to 50K

- Don't get stuck on the details
  - If you can't figure out how to say or describe something at the moment, but really want to move on, just save it for later by using ALL CAPS
    - Figure it out later after NaNo during the first stage of revision, just don't do too much of it… ☺
  - (DESCRIBE OAK TREE AND FARMHOUSE HERE; SHOW MC FRUSTRATED RIGHT HERE)
- Write, don't revise!
  - It's tempting to stop and revise, to make that sentence better or to find a strong word
  - Don't stop. Just write. If you want a stronger word, bold the word in all **CAPS**; ***italicize and bold sentences you want to make better.***

Remember -

Revision is Where the Real Writing Happens!

Just get to 50K!
Make it pretty later on.

Ethical Considerations

Bad, Don't Do!

- Plagiarism
  - Just don't
  - It's not worth it if you get caught
    - Career and reputation ruined
- Word Fluffing
  - Adding words or repeated statements just to reach a word count
  - "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy"

Artificial Intelligence

- Highly debatable topic in writing community
  - Recommend Avoid Using
- Any AI use should ethically be disclosed to your readership via some kind of formal statement in the beginning of the novel
  - Include details on how AI was used and what was included

First Steps…

- Select a genre for your NaNo project
  - Sci-fi, fantasy, young adult, new adult, children's, mystery, historical, thriller, suspense, horror, romance, etc.
  - Combine or specify genres as desired
    - New adult romance; children's horror; cozy mystery; thriller fantasy; historical young adult
- Come up with 1-3 plot ideas
  - Develop a short elevator pitch for each
  - If you have more than one, choose the one with the elevator pitch that most captivates you
    - Save the others for future NaNos!
  - Next Workshop will dive more into plot, so don't worry too much if you're a little stuck right now
- If you're new to creative writing (or just need a refresher like I probably could use…), take an hour or so to read my guidebook, The Science of Writing Fiction

Thank You!

Questions or Comments?

Daniel de Lill – ddelill@fau.edu
danieldelill.com/nano

