# Writing Motivation

Jean Davis, Speculative Fiction Author <http://jeanddavis.blogspot.com/>

What is your goal for writing?

Therapy for yourself

Fun

To share with a friend

To be published

Figure out when your most productive time to write is

Set aside time for you to write and keep it/ guard it/use it

If writing is important to you, make time for it, even if its half an hour a day.

Set goals – smaller goals are more attainable and rewarding

Small goals such as a word count per day or week

Getting through a certain amount of your outline

Use a calendar or planner or chart – something visual

Set bigger goals for larger projects in addition to small ones, monthly or by chapter

Rewards – not just for getting kids to do chores

Filling in a visual goal per day

Finish a chapter get time to watch a tv show or movie or play a game

Finish a full draft, go out to eat at your favorite place or buy yourself that thing you’ve wanted

Getting support

Tell a friend you’re writing, talk to them about it and they’ll check up on you

Family – maybe, maybe not

Other writers – where can you find them?

Ask your library or local bookstore if they have a writers group / critique group

Facebook search for your area/state/ genre

Online critique groups

Insecure Writers Support Group

What kind of support do you need?

Accountability

Someone to read your work and be waiting for the next chapter

Bouncing ideas / brainstorming

Things to get you writing

NaNoWrimo Nanowrimo.org

Story a Day storyaday.org

Look for prompts

Look for themed submissions

Try to get a short story published

Find a publication with a submission window so you have a set time to write the piece

Get your brain on task

Try a dedicated writing space, when you sit there it’s for writing

Train yourself to kick into creative mode with a smell/ lighting / sounds / snack / etc

Staying on task

Turn off your phone / silence it / turn it over

Turn off the internet / ignore all internet

Use either of those as your quick reward for 15 minutes of dedicated writing

Timed challenges – Write as much as you can for 10 – 20 minutes and take a 10 minute break

Word challenges – Set a word goal – such as 500 words

Do a word crawl (popular during NaNoWriMo) https://www.wikiwrimo.org/wiki/Word\_crawl

For those with frequent interruptions, aim for 15 minute writing sessions with breaks throughout the day

Got an hour? Write.

Handout 1:

**REEDSY:** [**https://blog.reedsy.com/writing-community/**](https://blog.reedsy.com/writing-community/)

**15 of the Best Online Writing Communities for Aspiring Authors**

**1.**[**Absolute Write Water Cooler**](https://absolutewrite.com/forums/forum.php)

With over 68,000 members, this is a large and highly active community. Here you can find threads on every genre imaginable, as well as discussions about freelance writing, the publishing industry, pop culture, writing prompts and exercises, and much more.

**Perfect for:** writers who are looking for a large and active community.

**2. [AgentQuery Connect](http://agentqueryconnect.com/)**

While this forum will come in handy for any writer, it’s especially helpful for authors who have already completed their manuscript and are wondering what to do next. The site boasts a wealth of information on publishing topics such as querying agents, self-publishing tips, and book promotion advice.

**Perfect for:** writers who are looking to connect with agents and learn more about the publishing industry.

**3.**[**Camp NaNoWriMo**](https://campnanowrimo.org/sign_in) (April & July) or NaNoWriMo.org (November)

If you’ve ever wanted to go to a writer’s retreat but can’t afford it just yet, then this site might help scratch your itch. Holding online “camp sessions” in April and July, Camp NaNoWriMo offers a digital space to encourage and empower writers at any point of their career. Here you can work on drafts, revisions, short stories, or any other writing project that involves word-count goals.

**Perfect for:** writers who can’t wait until November to crack their writing goals.

**4.**[**Critique Circle**](https://www.critiquecircle.com/)

Feedback should be a vital part of any writer’s process, and this is exactly what Critique Circle offers. This members-only site allows authors to post stories in exchange for feedback on other people’s writing. You can also find storyboarding tools, [**writing prompts**](https://blog.reedsy.com/creative-writing-prompts/), workshops, name generators, games like hangman, and much more.

**Perfect for:** writers who want honest feedback on their writing.

**5.**[**Chronicles**](https://www.sffchronicles.com/)

As the world’s largest Science Fiction and Fantasy online community, Chronicles offers writers the opportunity to get together and discuss the latest books, news, and pop culture in the Sci-Fi and Fantasy world. This is an active community with thousands of threads that include genre-specific challenges, workshops, critiques, and even publishing and industry information.

**6.**[**Facebook Groups**](https://www.facebook.com/groups/978243655664024/?ref=pages_groups_card&source_id=557606717653385)

If social media is more your style, don't miss the chance to interact with your fellow writers by joining Facebook groups in your own niche. Look for groups with a strict "no self-promotion" rules so that it remains supportive and useful to your writing goals.

There are a lot of groups out there in a variety of topics that range from genre-specific writing tips to traditional and self-publishing industry news. Here are just a few of them:

[**The Street Team**](https://www.facebook.com/groups/978243655664024/?ref=pages_groups_card&source_id=557606717653385) — Reedsy's own book marketing group for self-publishing authors.  
[**10 Minute Novelists**](https://www.facebook.com/groups/488365771285615/) — a group for the time-crunched writer.  
[**Calls for Submissions**](https://www.facebook.com/groups/35517751475/)— for writers looking for publication opportunities.  
[**Fiction Writers Global**](https://www.facebook.com/groups/fictionwritersgroup/) — a great resource for information about traditional and self-publishing.  
[**Writers Unite!**](https://www.facebook.com/groups/145324212487752/) — an active group with plenty of support and motivation for novice and experienced writers alike.

**Perfect for:** writers who prefer using social media.

**7.**[**Insecure Writer’s Support Group**](http://www.insecurewriterssupportgroup.com/)

Whether you are a debut or seasoned author, there’s no doubt that writing a book can be intimidating and rife with bouts of self-doubt. The Insecure Writer’s Support Group aims to help you overcome those insecurities by hosting a community of like-minded authors.

**Perfect for:** writers who have doubts about their writing and are in need of encouragement.

**8.**[**The Next Big Writer**](https://www.thenextbigwriter.com/)

This is an international forum where writers can receive feedback on their writing and support on every other part of the creative process from drafting to publishing and marketing. The critiques are often thorough and many come from published authors. Keep in mind that there is a monthly cost associated with the membership, but it might be worth it to be able to bend the ear of published authors.

**Perfect for:** writers seeking in-depth critiques from an international audience.

**9.**[**Reddit**](https://www.reddit.com/r/writing/)

More than just a single writing community, Reddit has countless ‘subreddits’ where writers of all genres, interests, and levels of experience flock. While it may not offer workshops or tools, members can find niche threads that relate to their interests, critique other people’s work, and discover helpful sources of information.

There are *so many* different subreddits that you can get lost browsing them, but here are a few of the most popular ones:

[**r/writing**](https://www.reddit.com/r/writing/) — for general writing purposes.  
[**r/writingprompts**](https://www.reddit.com/r/WritingPrompts/) — for user-submitted writing prompts.  
[**r/destructivereaders**](https://www.reddit.com/r/DestructiveReaders/) — beware, if you don’t like harsh criticism this may not be the best fit. But if you are willing to endure it, you will come out a better writer at the end.  
[**r/worldbuilding**](https://www.reddit.com/r/worldbuilding/) — user submitted fiction worlds.  
[**r/fantasywriters**](https://www.reddit.com/r/fantasywriters/) — for anybody interested in the fantasy genre.  
[**r/characterforge**](https://www.reddit.com/r/characterforge/) — the place to be for character building.  
[**r/writerchat**](https://www.reddit.com/r/writerchat/) — for those interested in talking with fellow writers.  
[**r/selfpublish**](https://www.reddit.com/r/selfpublish/) — for anybody interested in self-publishing.  
[**r/logophilia**](https://www.reddit.com/r/logophilia/) — lit. “the love of words and word games,” and that’s exactly what you’ll find here.  
[**r/freelanceWriters**](https://www.reddit.com/r/freelanceWriters/) — for anybody interested in a career in freelance writing.  
[**r/books**](https://www.reddit.com/r/books/) — because reading is just as important as writing if you want to be a successful author.

**Perfect for:** writers who want niche threads based on a particular interest or need.

**10. [Scribophile](https://www.scribophile.com/)**

One of the largest communities in the world, Scribophile offers workshops, tutorials, and critiques for authors in just about any genre imaginable. While it is free to join, only users who pay for a membership get access to all their features.

**Perfect for:** authors whowant to take part in writing workshops alongside writers of all experience levels.

**11.**[**She Writes**](https://www.shewrites.com/)

With over 30,000 members, this is the largest writing community exclusively for women. Here you can find articles on writing, editing, and marketing for every genre. There are forums tailored to specific needs, like travel writers, writing about trauma, NaNoWriMo, and many other topics.

**Perfect for:** women writers who want a place to connect and learn from fellow writers.

**12. [Talentville](http://www.talentville.com/)**

If your passion lies in screenwriting, then you’ll want to book a one-way ticket to Talentville. Here you can get feedback on your writing and learn the skills necessary to perfect your screencraft. Plus, you can work on and build your network of contacts: the site is also a frequent stop for industry professionals (like agents, managers, and producers) on the lookout for new talent.

**Perfect for:** writers whoare interested in screenwriting and networking.

**13.**[**Underlined**](https://www.getunderlined.com/)

A writing community by Penguin Random House. While any author can find helpful information on this website, it’s geared more towards younger writers. It has a well-designed platform, quizzes, genre-specific information, the latest news on book releases, Q&As with authors, and even some giveaways and excerpts as perks.

**Perfect for:** younger writers who are looking for genre-specific information and bookish perks.

**14.**[**Writers Helping Writers**](https://writershelpingwriters.net/)

This is a free-to-register community where you can find resources for writers, teachers, and editors alike. They offer a vast array of tools to perfect your craft, no matter your level. Their extensive creative library includes webinars, free writing and marketing tools, a thesaurus collection, story maps, idea generators, and more.

**Perfect for:** writers, editors, and teachers who are looking to build up their writing toolbox.

**15.**[**#WritingCommunity**](https://twitter.com/search?f=tweets&q=%23WritingCommunity)

Sometimes, all you need is a hashtag. And indeed, Twitter's own #WritingCommunity is one of the most robust writing collectives on the web. Ask a question, and it'll almost certainly get answered (without a lot of Twitter's trademark snark). The key here is to keep your questions concise, reply often to others, and don't go crazy with other hashtags. The community can tell if you're just thirsty for RTs.

**Perfect for:**writers who are finally ready to use Twitter for good — and not just for procrastinating.

Handout 2:

# A Pirate’s Life For Me

Word Crawl (7K words)

It’s a fine day for adventure, wouldn’t you say? Except it turns out adventures need funds, and you don’t have any. However, that well-dressed couple busy looking down their noses at the fabric merchant’s table probably has some to spare. **Type 250 words as quickly as possible to sneak over unnoticed.**

Within the bustle of the marketplace you seem to be invisible. You spot the bulge of a coin purse and reach out for it. It’s right there. Your fingers touch the fine leather pouch. The future you’ve dreamed of is inside. **Another 250 words gets you a prayer to the god of thieves.**

You yank the purse, quick as can be, snapping the cord. Grasping the weighted pouch, you attempt to drift back into the crowd. Unfortunately, the man either noticed the quick jerk, the change in weight at his side or you’re just not quite as invisible as you thought you were.  “Stop! Thief!” he bellows. **You run like the devil is after you for 300 words.**

Apparently, the god of thieves doesn’t like you very much. Three soldiers are closing in. You stumble in your race for freedom,  and as you pitch forward, feet losing their contact with the ground, you throw your hands out to catch yourself. Your hand opens to break your fall. The pouch opens as it flies through the air. Gold and silver coins rain down around you. Beggars like yourself, though you prefer the  term *economically challenged,*  seem to appear from nowhere. (Maybe they’re just better at being invisible than you are.) They start grabbing the coins. **250 words saves you a few coins for yourself as you scramble back to your feet.**

The soldiers are slowed by the chaos of desperate bodies scrambling in the dirt for the few last loose coins. Your bare feet pound the dirt and you make it to the cobbled part of town. You dodge between horses and carts.  If you didn’t have holes in all your pockets, you might have a safe place to stash your newfound wealth, but alas, you’re stuck clutching it in your palm. As much as you’d like to take a breath and count up what you saved, the boots of the soldiers are getting closer again. If they catch you, you’ll hang. The local law likes you even less than the god of thieves.  **You sprint for freedom for 300 words.**

The docks are just ahead. If you can make it aboard a ship, you might make it out to sea and then to another, hopefully more welcoming port, where you can start your new life. **Pound out another 300 words while you weave your way through the traffic to the docks.**

Two ships are loading cargo, a sure sign they’re leaving soon. One is a lovely ship with a beautifully carved woman who seems to be staring right at you with the promise of freedom.  Her slight smile even hints that there might be a little adventure along the way. The straight-backed, uniformed crew loads the freight in an orderly fashion. You approach a spectacled man with a thick book in his hand who seems to be directing the others.  “How much for passage?” you ask. **He ignores you for 200 words.**

“You’re still here?” he says, slapping his book shut after the last crate is loaded.  You nod. He looks you over like he’s debating whether beggar or urchin is the right term.  His nose wrinkles and his upper lip curls. “Two gold to overlook offal like you.” Well doesn’t he just have a big vocabulary? You take a deep breath and close your eyes, **praying for 350 words to the blessed virgin that you have at least that much.**

The crowds near the dock begin to stir and voices inquiring about someone who looks just like you are getting closer. You open your eyes and your palm. A silver and four bronze rest in your hand, their outlines etched in red on your skin where you’d held them so tightly. The man with the book laughs at you, loudly, drawing attention from others nearby. **Closing your fingers over the coins, you slink away for 250 words.**

Men in mismatched clothing travel up and down the narrow board joining the second ship to the dock, with baskets and crates in their arms and on their backs. You make your way over to three men who appear to be arguing about a page in the book one of them is holding. **You eye the oncoming soldiers and try to wait for these men to come to an agreement for 300 words.**

They’re taking too long. Forcing a smile, you try to fit in with a seaworthy greeting (outloud).  “Ahoy!” (team pirate answers) “Ahoy yourself!” say the three men in unison, still glaring at one another and seemingly displeased to be interrupted.

“What seems to be the problem?” you ask, hoping to earn some goodwill that might make up for your lack of appropriate funding for passage. The tallest of the men, wearing a fabulous hat decorated with a thick white plume, raises his bushy brows. “Wouldn’t be that you might read?” he asks. **You ponder your answer for 100 words.**

“Why yes, yes, I do. I can also write,” you say confidently. Who knew that your hobby of novel writing might actually come in handy? As evidenced by your current social standing, it wasn’t like you could make a decent living off it. “Thank the gods,” says the man with the hat. “Grab him.” **Write for 350 words as you’re summarily picked up by the broadest of the three** and carried aboard as if you were no more than a basket of beets.

The man whose giant hands rest forcefully on your shoulders, introduces himself as Greg. He then proceeds to gripe about how much he hates his name. The rest of the crew hurries about the deck, pulling the gangplank onboard and untying the knots that held the ship to the dock. “What kind of pirate name be that?” he grumbles. “I curse the woman who gave me that name every day I live.” **Write for 300 words while it sinks in that you’ve just been grabbed by pirates.**

As the sails unfurl and the wind takes you away from the docks, you realize that at least the soldiers can’t get you and you still have your money. Maybe this day is looking up. **Write 250 words and include that line in your novel.**

“Is that the captain?” you ask. Greg nods. “Aye, that be the Pirate De Plume.” You nod knowingly. “Ah, that explains that stunning feather.” Greg’s brows crunch into an impressive bulge of grimy skin upon his forehead while his thin lips scowl. **You stand very still and silent for 300 words, wondering what you missed.**

“Ah there you are, says the man who still held the book. “Now then, our bookkeeper has fallen...ill,” he says as he glances at the railing, to Greg, and back to the railing. He clears his throat. “And as such, we find ourselves in need of a scribe to tally the shipment.  The good captain De Plume would take it most kindly if you were to fill this position.” **Write 300 words while you debate about asking how much the position pays.**

You didn’t get where you are in life on your good looks alone. “And what’s in it for me?” you ask. As the pressure increases on your shoulders, you wonder how thick the deck is and if it’s possible for Greg to drive you through it or if your spine will snap first. “As master of coin on this ship, I will offer what payment the captain deems worthy of your efforts. “ He tugs his too small and tattered jacket straight. “What I can guarantee is a hammock and up to two meals a day. Name’s Chet, by the way.”

Were there parents somewhere that gave their babies names suitable for pirates and others that just had no idea this type of future was in store for their offspring? Couldn’t they just adopt a pirate name? **Write for 250 words while you bite your tongue.**

“Sounds good,” you manage to say. “When do I start?” Greg and Chet stare each other down for a minute before Greg lets go and walks away. Chet hands you the book and leads you to a door. Inside there is a small room with a table. He shows you the ink and pen in a drawer. “I’ll leave you to get acquainted with the book for a bit and we’ll go below deck to inventory the new stock after the midday meal.” You hide your few coins in your shoes and **Write 250 words while you peruse the book.**

A young person who is dressed as a ragged boy, yet, from the bumpy mound crammed under the hat upon their head and the sweet face is clearly a girl, ducks in and mumbles that it’s time for the meal. She leads you down a questionable ladder and into a room filled with worn tables and benches. Hammocks sway between poles. You duck under one and find yourself an empty spot at a bench beside a grizzled old man who’s skin looks like the soles of your shoes.  Pewter tankards line the tables. You’re thirsty. You lick your lips, anticipating anything from grog to something more traditional for the venue. **Write for 100 words while everyone picks up their tankards and holds them high.**

“Yo ho ho!” You all say. (outloud)  “And a bottle of rum!” (team pirate answers)

Like everyone else you take a deep drink. And nearly spit it out. “Water?” you ask the man beside you. Warm and stale water at that. “That last part be just a saying. This be a sober ship,” he says.  **Write for 250 words while you deal with this revelation.**

After a meal loosely resembling the gruel your mother used to make, you grab the book, pen and ink and go meet Chet in the hold to begin the inventory.  Two hours into the tedious task of logging french-made corsets, silk, a single casket of rum that Greg is guarding, and other sundry goods, you arrive at a dark spot in the hold that even Chet’s lantern barely lights. All you can see is a mountain of crates. “What’s inside?” you ask.  **Write for 250 words while silence falls between you.**

Chet leans in real close. “Treasure. We need you to count the crates and make sure it matches the book. Let Greg know when you’re done. I’ll leave you the lantern.” Chet leaves you under Greg’s watch.  You begin counting crates. **Write 300 words while curiosity eats at you.**

You work your way around the towering pyramid of wooden crates and away from Greg’s line of sight. One of the crates sits out of line with the others and it’s top appears to be loose. Praying to the fickle god of inspiration, you quietly tug at the lid. It comes free. You bring the lantern in closer, waiting for the facets of jewels to light or the faces of coins to glint. But it’s paper. Scrolls and scrolls of paper lined with words. Just as you slide the lid back into place, you lift the lantern. **The light shines on Pirate De Plume’s face. Use the next 250 words to keep your heart in your chest.**

“I see you’ve discovered our treasure,” he says. He doesn’t look very happy with you. De Plume taps on the nearest crate. “We have all the words.” **Write for 100 words** while you try to keep a comment about the entire crew being illiterate to yourself.

A sudden crash rocks the entire ship, nearly knocking you off your feet. The topmost crates waver on the pyramid. A commotion breaks out above you. Men are shouting. Feet madly shuffle back and forth. “Where are they?” “Can you see them?”  Greg and Pirate De Plume bare their swords and race up the ladder. You set the lantern down and creep up the ladder behind them. A giant black ship has come up alongside yours. You feel a tug at your side. The kid looks up at you with wide eyes, and whispers, “Sea ninjas.” **You scan the deck for 250 words.**

“I don’t see them,” you whisper back.  The kid gives you a deadpan stare before sinking back into the shadows. Two men fall with shiny throwing stars lodged in their throats. Greg gives a mighty roar and plucks a black-clad figure from behind one of the masts. He pitches the flailing figure overboard. Chaos breaks out on the deck. Black-clad figures perform aerobatic stunts. The pirates wield their blades with skill. The fight expands up the rigging and even spills over onto the deck of the black ship. **Spend the next 250 words considering how this level of adventure might not be quite what you were after.**

It slowly occurs to you that you still have the book, pen, and ink in your hands rather that a weapon of any sort. Or do you? **Back away and go down the ladder for 150 words.**

If this ship contains all the words, surely there must be some magic in this treasure! Magic those ninjas shouldn’t get their hands on. You grab the lantern and sneak back into the hold, making your way to the pyramid of crates. Seeing that they are all in fact numbered, you climb up to the crates to the top and carry down four of the lowest numbered crates. Using your fingers, you pry open the lids and scan the scrolls for the words you need.  Finally, at the bottom of the third crate, you find the instructions. **You spend the next 300 words cursing quality control inspector number 6 for not putting them on top in the first crate.**

You skim the instructions. You need paper, a pen, blood... The distinct wet sound of a body hitting the wood above registers in your ears. Blood seeps through the boards. Well isn’t that handy? You start going through the scrolls to find the words you need and then dab your pen into the blood. You turn the book to a blank page and carefully write: The fighting came to a sudden halt. **Use the next 250 words to overcome writer’s block.**

You write the ninjas back onto their own ship and send them on their way with a quest to update their clothing to bright colors. **Write 250 words while you decide what to do with the pirates.**

As the sun sinks onto the horizon, you adjust your captain’s hat and your fine new coat. Your crew raises their tankards full of quality rum. Chet finishes an eloquent toast in your honor. The kid now wears clean clothes and everyone refers to her as Pat. She smiles and takes her seat next to the Greg.  You debate whether to give Greg a new name befitting his pirate ways, but decide to hold off on any further changes. After all, the instructions were quite clear about not editing until the story was done or you may all end up living the same day over and over while you strive for perfection. After dinner is done, you go back to your room and settle into your luxurious cabin, wondering what adventure tomorrow might hold.  Then you pick up your pen and begin to write.

Written by Jean Davis ©2018

[http://jeanddavis.blogspot.com](http://jeanddavis.blogspot.com/)

Jean Davis lives in West Michigan with her musical husband, two nerdy kids, and two attention-craving terriers. When not ruining fictional lives from the comfort of her writing chair, she can be found devouring books and sushi, enjoying the offerings of local breweries, weeding her flower garden, or picking up hundreds of sticks while attempting to avoid the abundant snake population who also shares her yard.

Each November she acts as Municipal Liaison for National Novel Writing Month, organizing events for local writing participants. She has also managed to meet the 50k word thirty day challenge twelve of out of the thirteen years she has participated.

Jean writes speculative fiction. Her novels include *Trust, Destiny Pills & Space Wizards*, *The Last God*,*A Broken Race* and *Sahmara*.  She currently has fifteen published short stories. They have appeared in The *3288 Review, Bards and Sages Quarterly, Theian Journal*, Acidic Fiction's *Corrosive Chronicles* anthology, *The First Line, Tales of the Talisman, Brewed Awakenings II* anthology, and more.