



DIGITAL COMMUNITY OF AUTHORS & STUDENT PUBLISHING COMPANY

Step 1: Topic List

Create a list of at least ten possible writing topics

So you're ready to begin writing! The first step is to generate a list of topics to choose from. Some topics will prove to be better than others, and you may never use all the topics you list, but the having a list will give you choices anytime you sit down to write.

How do you begin? Open a topic list from the project page and enter your name and today's date. Then, take a deep breath, clear your mind of anything else, and prepare to write down every topic you can think of! Don't stop to think too long about an idea that pops into your mind – just type it into the topic list and keep going. Type them in as quickly as you can think of them. Then when you've filled out at least 10 ideas and you can't think of anymore, you're done!

What makes a good topic? A good writing topic can be

- Something that you are especially interested in and know a lot about
- Something that you have done or experienced yourself
- Something that sparks your imagination and you like to think about
- A favorite person, place or thing
- Directions on how to complete an important task
- An expression of your ideas and opinions on an important topic
- Anything you feel strongly about

Once you've completed your topic list, be sure to save it in your digital writing folder on the computer. That way you'll know where it is anytime you want to go back and review it.

Once you're done writing on a topic you will want to come back to topic list looking for new writing ideas. And every so often you'll want to edit your topic list, removing topics you've already used and topics that don't seem like such a good idea anymore, and then adding new topics you've come up with. A good topic list keeps changing over time!

How will you know it's time to edit your topic list? Any time you look at it and you don't see any ideas you'd like to write on, it's time to update your list! But let's not get ahead of ourselves. First thing's first. It's time to generate your very first topic list – the very first step in becoming a published author!

- Mallory