



I finished NaNoWriMo!

NOW WHAT?



HOW LONG SHOULD MY BOOK BE?

The simple answer:

Long enough to tell your story but short enough to consistently hold your reader's interest.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? IS 50,000 WORDS ENOUGH?

Unfortunately, the simple answer is a little too simple. There are many factors that influence how long your completed manuscript should be, including industry standards related to your genre.

WELL, THAT'S CONFUSING. WHICH ANSWER IS CORRECT?

Because there are conflicting recommendations, we suggest you use these numbers as guidelines rather than hard rules.

Word count goals can vary widely based on the genre you write in and the audience you write for.

WHAT ARE THE INDUSTRY STANDARDS FOR WORD COUNT?

Standard novel length: 50,000-110,000.

Yay! I'm at 50,000 . . . hold on, not so fast.

Writer's Digest recommends 80,000-89,999 for most fiction genres.



WORD COUNT GUIDELINES



FICTION

Mainstream Romance: 70,000-100,000
*some subgenres may allow 40,000+

Science Fiction / Fantasy: 90,000-120,000

Historical Fiction: 80,000-100,000

Crime Fiction/Thrillers/Mystery/Horror:
70,000-90,000

Young Adult: 50,000-80,000

NONFICTION

Standard Nonfiction: 70,000-80,000

Memoir: 80,000-100,000

Biography: 80,000-200,000

How-to / Self-Help: 40,000-50,000

Different Methods of Publishing



TRADITIONAL PUBLISHING

When a publisher offers the author a contract and, in turn, prints, publishes, and sells your book through booksellers and other retailers. The publisher buys the rights to publish your and pays you royalties from sales.

INDIE PUBLISHING

Involves forming partnerships that help deliver the best possible product to the most possible readers, including trade publishers. May involve small presses, hybrid processes, and non-traditional royalty schedules.



SELF-PUBLISHING

Publication of media by its author without the involvement of an established publisher. KDP Publishing and IngramSpark are two popular print-on-demand publishing resources.



Join the NCW Community!

www.northerncoloradowriters.com

