

10 THINGS TO DO TO GET READY TO WRITE

1. **Clear** your mind.
2. **Organize** your ideas, on a list or in a document. Write an outline if that's how you rock and roll. I DO like an outline. I need the structure. I used to write without one, but I found I'm much more efficient and creative if I start with a road map. I might take a side trip from my route, but I know my start and my destination.
3. Have **water** at your desk. Hydrate. A brain doesn't function if it's *dry*.
4. Have a **positive attitude**. You can't write if you're thinking: "I'll never do this right... well... fast." *Fill in the blank!* What is that negative voice saying in the background? Silence it. Put up encouraging notes in your workspace and read them when necessary. Notes like: *You can do this. I believe in me. I am a creative human being.*
5. Put on **music** if that helps you focus. I like instrumental music. It calms me. I don't like to listen to music with words. I'll sing along. At the top of my lungs. Not good when trying to write. Not bad when taking a break.
6. Have **research materials** at your fingertips. If that means open files, do so. I have a number of files with background information on my characters, and I often have them open so I can refresh my memory and double-check details. If you need to research via the Internet, make sure you have a good Internet connection. There's nothing more frustrating than needing information and not being able to pin it down because you're offline.
7. Be **willing to write something other** than what you thought you'd write. What if you sit in that chair and nothing is coming? Do not call it writer's block. It's *writer-mulling-things-over* time. Write something else. A poem, a blog post, a note to your best friend. Writing sparks new ideas and creative thinking.
8. Be **willing to move on** if you're in a scene and it's not working. Jot a note like "Fix this" or notate it with asterisks ** and move on. Come back to it. Let your subconscious figure out the trouble with the scene as you pour yourself into something *fresh*.
9. Make sure your **documents** are well named. I cannot begin to tell you how frustrated I have gotten when I can't find the specific document I need *now!!* Grr. Frustration will take you out of your creative genius moment, and let's face it, you know you are a **genius!** So make it easy for yourself to be brilliant.
10. Set a daily **schedule**. I like to write first thing in the morning for 2 hours so I get a head start. Often I set a timer those 2 hours and I write until the timer goes off and then I'm free to fetch a snack, do social media, listen to telephone messages, etc. And then I set the timer again, and start the 10 THINGS TO DO all over again!

Enjoy! Savor the Mystery!