

# Components of a Novel

For Writers to become Authors

## ✓ CONFLICTS & COMPLICATIONS

- Write on conflict. Write on conflict. Write on conflict.

## ✓ PACING

Flow  
Rhythm

- Use the Stephen King mantra, “I gotta...” to remember you want the reader to think, “I gotta find out what happens next!”
- Build in the ups and downs along with the twists and turns to keep your reader turning pages.

## ✓ MIDDLE COMPLICATIONS

Pivotal Scenes  
Transitions

- Avoid the dreaded “sagging middle” by using subplots and introducing scenes that move your story in new directions.
- Assure cohesiveness with 1) the order you present your events and 2) the relationship you construct between these events.

## ✓ FORESHADOWING

- Important events in your story must not arise from nowhere. Foreshadowing allows the reader to guess what may happen next.

## ✓ CLIMACTIC SCENES

- The end of your book must crescendo in excitement.

## ✓ RESOLUTION

- Tie all the strands together in a satisfying manner.

✓ **WRITING STYLE,  
VOICE**

• “Voice” is determined by the personality traits, likes and dislikes, attitudes, beliefs, age, gender, experience of the main character. Check your vocabulary, word choice, phrasing, sentence style against your character’s traits, to ensure that every word best reflects that character’s voice and point of view.

✓ **HISTORICAL  
RESEARCH**

• Whether you’re writing historical fiction, biography, or creative non-fiction, just as you need to “know” your characters, you must know your historical setting and subjects. If you don’t, your story will lose credibility and “sale-ability.”