



## **RAIDER WRITING MONTH 2011**

Workshops and Write-Ins  
*Oakton Community College*

### **I WROTE A NOVEL. NOW WHAT?**

*Tu 12/6: 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Oakton Community College Library Classroom 2418*

Congratulations! You are no longer a “one day” novelist, you are now *a novelist!* Join us for our first post-NaNo workshop where we’ll help you get started on rewriting, revising, and editing your novel. We’ll share resources for writers, as well as tips and tricks to help maintain all that momentum you built up in November.

Oh, and we’ll probably do a little celebrating. We just wrote novels, after all!

### **AGENDA**

- A Word from Chris Baty
- Life After NaNo
  - First Steps
  - Finish the Draft
  - Rewrite, Revise, Edit
- See You Next Week!

## A WORD FROM CHRIS BATY, NANOWRIMO GURU:

“Dear Novelist,  
It is my pleasure to inform you that  
you have officially kicked ass this  
month.”

### LIFE AFTER NANO: FIRST STEPS

**Take a break** from your novel, if you haven't already.

**Celebrate!** If you've already celebrated, celebrate some more!

**Make a date** with your novel. Read the manuscript. Determine if you want to dedicate a year (or more) to it.

If you want to **revise**, or if your story isn't yet **finished**, it's time to start crackalackin'!

### FINISH THE DRAFT

**Get back in the habit.** Chances are your novel isn't complete in 50,000 words. If this is the case, get back into the writing habit, and finish that story.

**Find your post-NaNo Community.** Just because November is over, that doesn't mean all the writers have disappeared back into their writing caves and no longer want to talk shop with you.

*Where have all the writers gone?*

- Twitter
- Facebook
- The Blogosphere
- ChiWriMo Google group
- Meetup.com—Find critique and writing groups

**Don't forget to rejoin the real world.** November was fun and crazy and really, really satisfying. But the key to maintaining the writing habit is finding balance. Think of NaNo as the crash diet some of us need to get back into a healthy lifestyle, it can't be sustained indefinitely, but it sure does help kick things into motion.

**Don't kick all of the good habits you developed in November.** I'm always sad to see abandoned totems, writing zones, and coffee shops in December. You've developed some great habits, so stick with 'em!

## **REWRITE, REVISE, & EDIT**

**Find your process.** There are so many ways to approach a revision, and what works for me may not work for you. The only way to discover your process is to begin, so that means it's time to get pen to paper!

### **Learn from others.**

Read books on writing.

Read great books. Books *about* writing are great, but for me, there's nothing better than the real thing.

### **Some Suggestions:**

**Find your story arc.** Plot out your chapters for character and action to find your story's structure, plots, and sub-plots

**Make a story board.** Are you a visual person? This might work for you.

**Create a timeline for your MCs.**

**Share Your Story** Send your story to a willing reader, and be open to the feedback they provide. Sometimes, a second pair of eyes is exactly what it takes to find holes in your story. And it's always nice to have an enthusiastic fan.

**Get on the boards.** Google "writing forum" and you will find a huge amount of Internet resources for aspiring and experienced writers, alike. Many boards have space for writers to share a chapter and get feedback.

**Take a class.** We have fabulous creative writing courses here at OCC. There are also several great writing programs in and around the city, so if you're serious about developing your craft and you would benefit from regular feedback from a professional, sign up!

## **UNTIL NEXT TIME . . .**

### **Spread the Love**

*Tu 12/13: 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Oakton Community College Library Classroom 2418*

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .**

OCC's NaNo Guide: <http://researchguides.oakton.edu/nanowrimo>

Lori Oster's RaiderWriMo page: <http://www.oakton.edu/user/0/loster/RaiderWriMo.html>

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