

The logo for duolit, featuring the word "duolit" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font inside a dark blue speech bubble shape.The title "Ninja School" is written in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font. Above the word "Ninja" is the word "SELF-PUBLISHING" in a smaller, bold, yellow, sans-serif font. The background of the title is a blue silhouette of a person in a dark blue t-shirt holding a long sword horizontally across their chest. The background is a solid blue color with a subtle pattern of small white dots.

How NOT to Write a Book

Instructor: Shannon O'Neil | Course Duration: 6 Weeks/Lessons | Lesson Length: Approx. 1 Hour

Overview

How NOT to Write a Book is a six week course in how to avoid success by making all the most common mistakes of the writing process. We all make mistakes—it's a fact of life—but it's also a key part of our learning process. We have to screw up in order to learn how to do things right the first time. Please note the facetious tone of this course—it's like reverse psychology. We're telling you exactly how you should go about your writing process if you DO NOT want to achieve success.

About The Course

For illustrative purposes, we're going to follow the much maligned path of Robbie the Writer—a fictional character who might bear a little too much resemblance to us and our distractions.

By reading through this course and performing the exercises, you will learn how to avoid some of the common pitfalls along your path to writing success.

Over the course of six weeks we will touch on six playfully facetious "DO NOTs" including:

- DO NOT learn from others' mistakes.
- DO NOT organize your thoughts.
- DO NOT find time in your schedule to write.
- DO NOT miss an opportunity to compare your work to other authors' work.
- DO NOT steer clear of distractions.
- DO NOT ignore the opinions of everyone else.

LESSON 1

Introduction

- We all make mistakes—it’s a fact of life—but it’s also a key part of our learning process. We have to screw up in order to learn how to do things right the first time.
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- Over the course of six weeks we will touch on six playfully facetious “DO NOTs” starting with...

DO NOT learn from others’ mistakes

- What holds most authors back from successfully completing their projects?
- How can you determine what mistakes you’re making so that you can fix them?

LESSON 2

DO NOT organize your thoughts!

- What decisions should you make about your writing project before you begin?
- How much of your book should you figure out in advance?
- What are some different types of outlines you can create to stay on track?

LESSON 3

DO NOT find time in your schedule

to write!

- How do you prefer to schedule your writing time?
- When is there time in your schedule to devote to writing?
- What should you do when you make time to write but find that you have no inspiration?

LESSON 4

DO NOT miss an opportunity to compare your work to other authors’ work!

- Should you read other books while you’re writing your own?
- Is it a good idea to analyze the work of your favorite author?
- What can happen if you compare someone else’s work to yours?

LESSON 5

DO NOT steer clear of distractions

- How can you avoid the powerful pull of the Internet?
- What are the other common distractions that pull us away from our writing?
- When should we say “enough is enough!” and just run away?

LESSON 6

DO NOT ignore the opinions of everyone else.

- Isn’t it okay to ask other people for their opinions of your work?
- When does it become detrimental to your writing to hear what others think?
- What makes you qualified to be a writer in the first place?