

# Ten Steps to Planning A Romance Novel

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I consolidated information from six sources to create this “To Do” list for writing a romance novel. It gives me a starting point for the story.

1. **Premise:** (Think of premise as what you believe to be true or false and you want to prove it via characters, actions, theme, and events.)
2. **Theme:** (Forms the spine of your story). Answer the following question in 25 words:

This book is about

3. **Inciting Incident:** (The spark that sets everything into motion.)
4. **Main Dramatic Question:** What question does your story ask and answer?
5. **Five story elements** (Swain)

For heroine:

- a. Character:
- b. Situation:
- c. Goal:
- e. Opponent:

f. Disaster:

For hero:

a. Character:

b. Situation:

c. Goal:

e. Opponent:

f. Disaster:

## **6. Character lesson learned or character arc.**

What does the heroine need to learn by the end of the story?

How does heroine get from Point A (believing what she does now) to Point B (growing into what she needs to believe)?

What does the hero need to learn by the end of the story?

How does hero get from Point A (believing what he does now) to Point B (growing into what he needs to believe)?

## **7. Drilling down into the hero and heroine's character.**

- a. What is the heroine's conscious need?
- b. What is her unconscious need?
- c. What psychological strength does the hero lack that the heroine fulfills?
- d. What is the hero's conscious need?
- e. What is his unconscious need?
- f. What psychological strength does the heroine lack that the hero fulfills?

**8. How do the hero and heroine deal with the conflict as they fall in love?**

**9. Make sure they are the Right Match**

- a. What makes the hero wrong for the heroine and why is he really perfect for her?
- b. What about the hero makes the heroine face her biggest fear.

c. What makes the heroine wrong for the hero and why is she really perfect for him?

d. What about the heroine makes the hero face his biggest fear.

10. **Write a goal, motivation, and conflict summary that leads to the climax.**

**Sources:**

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