

From Idea to Manuscript

A companion worksheet to *Your Book Starts With an Idea*

Use these questions to explore your idea, picture your reader, and begin gathering material for your manuscript. Write freely and return to your answers as your idea develops.

1. Capture Your Idea

Complete this sentence in your own words.

I want to write a book about: _____

_____

_____

What keeps drawing you back to this subject?

_____

_____

2. Picture Your Reader

Who benefits most from this book? _____

_____

My book is primarily for: _____

_____

What is happening in this person's life that draws them to your book? _____

_____

_____

_____

Bernadette Donnelly
Author • Independent Publisher • Writing Coach

From Your Idea to Your Book
Worksheet

Clarify Your Book's Purpose

You've identified your subject and pictured your reader. Now explore what you want your book to offer that person. Use the questions below to connect your idea with the experience or result you want your reader to gain.

3. Define What You Want the Reader to Gain

When someone finishes your book, what do you want them to feel, understand, believe, or do? _____

_____

4. Find Your Book's Central Question

What question brings your subject, your reader, and their desired result together?

_____

The central question my book answers:

_____

_____

Related questions my book answers:

_____

_____

_____

Gather Your Material

Your central question gives you a focus for gathering material. Think back through your experiences, conversations, and notes, and use the prompts below to capture what belongs in your book.

5 Brainstorm

Use your central question to gather stories, lessons, examples, and research leads. Capture ideas as they come to you; organize them afterward. Continue on another page when you need more room.

Stories I want to tell:

_____

_____

_____

Lessons I've learned:

_____

_____

_____

Questions people often ask me:

_____

_____

_____

Experiences I want to share:

_____

_____

_____

Information I need to research:

_____

_____

_____

From Your Idea to Your Book
Worksheet

Bring Your Idea Together

Bring your subject, your reader, and their desired result together. Use your answers to complete the statement below and give your idea a clear direction.

6. Write Your Working Book Statement

Bring your thinking together in one sentence.

I want to write a book about: _____

For: _____

So they can: _____

This working statement gives your book direction. Refine it as you gather material and discover what matters most to your reader.

Your Next Step

Choose one action to complete this week:

☐ Add five stories or ideas to my brainstorming notes

☐ Spend 20 minutes free-writing about my book idea

☐ Talk with someone who represents my future reader

☐ Begin a folder for book research and ideas

☐ Write one page about why this book matters to me

My next step is:

_____

I will do it by:

_____

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Let's Give Your Book Idea Shape Together

As an author, indie publisher, and writing coach, I'll help you develop your idea and get it from inside your head to a well defined manuscript.

Visit **BernadetteDonnelly.com** and contact me about writing coaching. Share your idea and where you're getting stuck, and let's give your book a clear starting point.

Bernadette Donnelly
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