

USING NANOWRIMO'S FREE TOOLS TO
REACH YOUR WRITING GOALS

NOT JUST FOR NOVELS

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Agenda

- **Introduction**
- **What is and isn't NaNoWriMo?**
- **Beyond Novel Writing**
- **My NaNoWriMo: Tour of Tools**
- **Community: Finding Your People**
- **Writer's Resources**
- **Why this Works**
- **Word Sprint!**
- **In Praxis: How Have Others Found Success?**

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- Former Community Programs Manager at NaNoWriMo
- Storyteller



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NaNoWriMo

MY NANOWRIMO ▾

COMMUNITY ▾

WRITER'S RESOURCES ▾



Hi, [user]

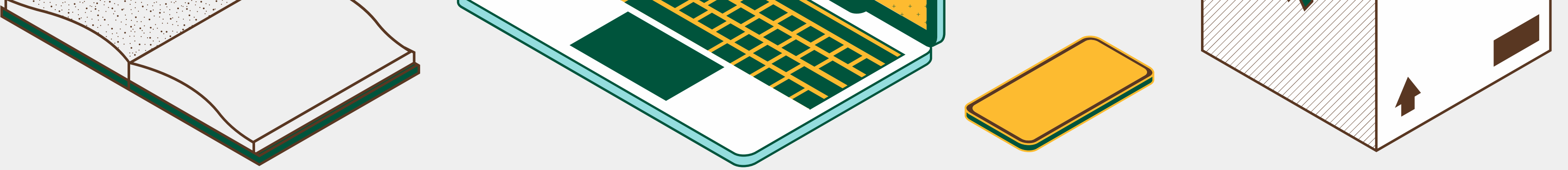
What Is NaNoWriMo?

National Novel Writing Month began in 1999 as a daunting but straightforward challenge: to write 50,000 words of a novel in thirty days. Now, each year on November 1, hundreds of thousands of people around the world begin to write, determined to end the month with 50,000 words of a brand new novel. They enter the month as elementary school teachers, mechanics, or stay-at-home parents. They leave novelists.

NaNoWriMo officially became a nonprofit organization in 2006, and our programs support writing fluency and education. Our website hosts more than a million writers, serving as a social network with author profiles, personal project libraries, and writing buddies. NaNoWriMo tracks words for writers like Fitbit tracks steps, and hosts real-world writing events in cities from Mexico City, to Seoul, to Milwaukee with the help of 900+ volunteers in thousands of partnering libraries and community centers like... well, like nothing else.

NaNoWriMo is internet-famous. It's community-powered (hello, Wrimos!). It's hosted authors drafting novels like *Water for Elephants*, *WOOL*, and *Fangirl*. It's a teaching tool and curriculum taught in 5,920 classrooms, and NaNoWriMo's programs run year-round.

Whatever you thought NaNoWriMo is, it's more than that.

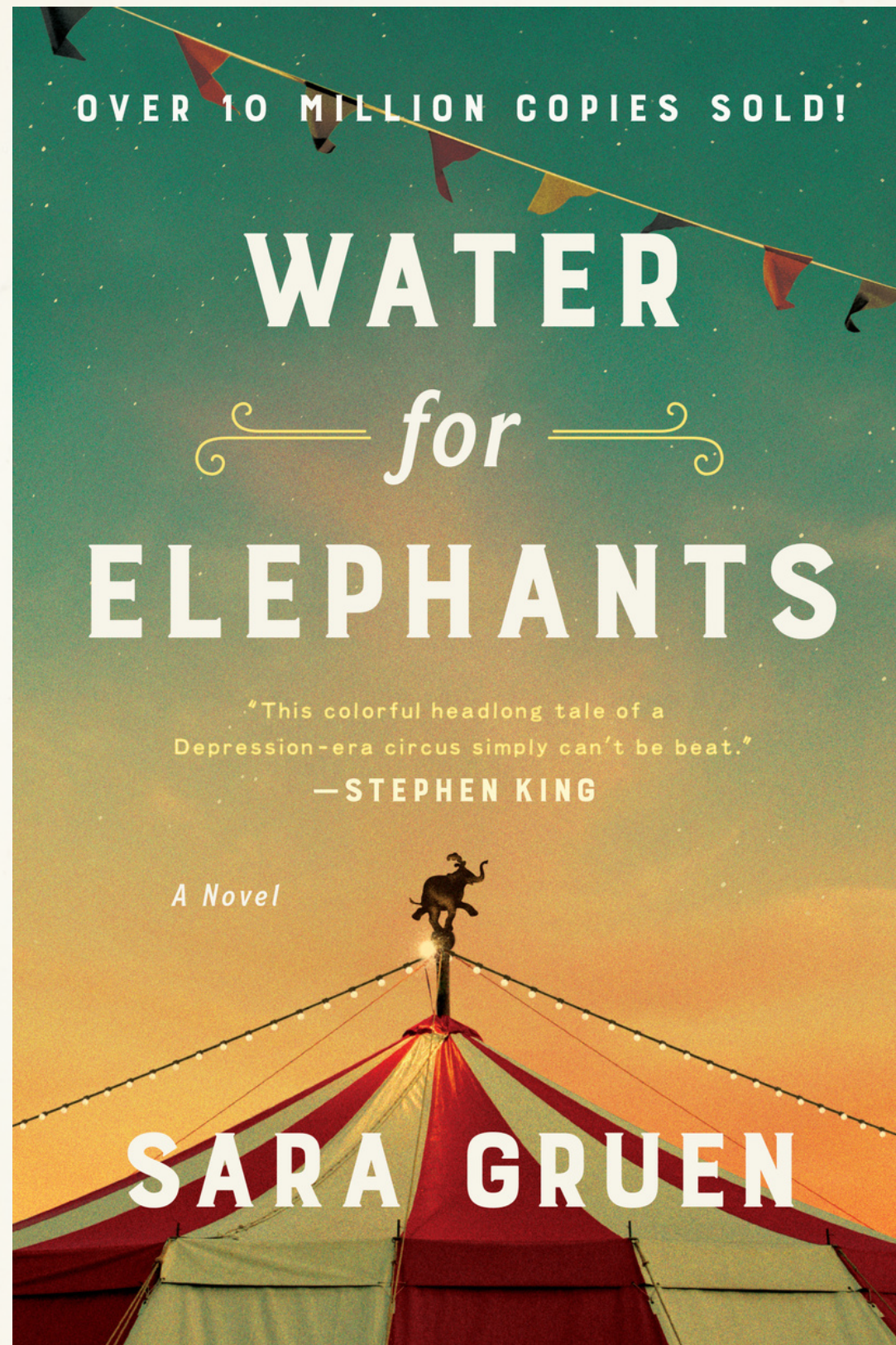


WHAT IS NANOWRIMO?

- Completely free
- A way to track progress
- A motivational tool
- A Nonprofit Organization
- A means of finding a writing community

WHAT ISN'T NANOWRIMO?

- Data mining
- A publication tool
- A contest
- A word processing program
- Just for November
- Just for fiction writing



IN PRACTICE...

BESTSELLING BOOKS BY PUBLISHED NANO
AUTHORS

- *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern
- *Cinder, Scarlet and Cress* by Marissa Meyer
- *Fangirl* by Rainbow Rowell
- *Wool* by Hugh Howey
- *Side Effects May Vary* by Julie Murphy
- *Water for Elephants* by Sarah Gruen

BEYOND NOVEL WRITING

IN PRACTICE...

In the Classroom:

- Medical storytelling
- Storytelling for traditionally oppressed groups
- Could benefit ESL learners

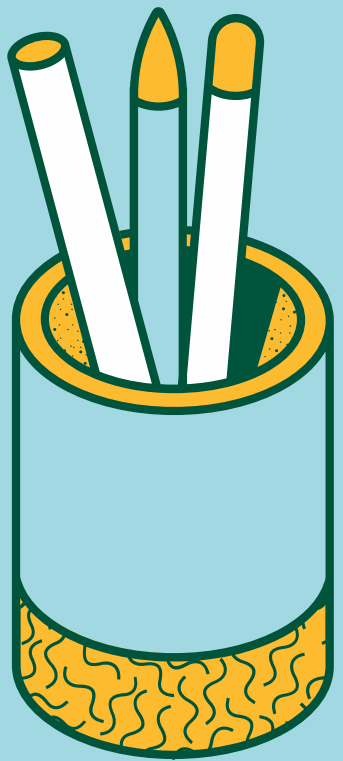
Academic Application:

- Tracking progress on lengthy projects
- Gamifying dissertation completion
- Finding community to support goal attainment

Personal Fulfillment:

- Finally starting or finishing your creative project
- Writing a memoir
- Connecting with creative community

MY NANOWRIMO: TOUR OF TOOLS



1 ————— 2 ————— 3 ————— 4 ————— 5

Avatar, bio, info

This is information you can share with other writers when they look at your profile

The title of your overall project

This title should not be time-bound

Attainable, timed targets

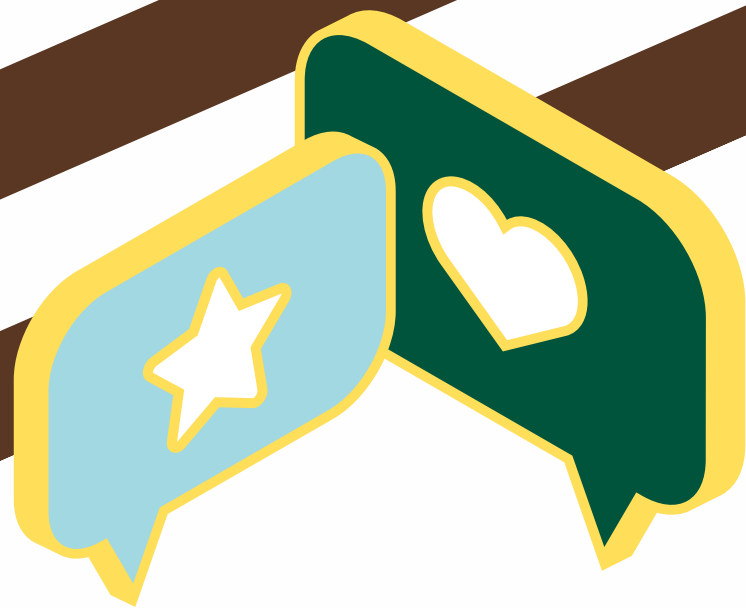
You can create multiple and edit them as needed but they cannot overlap

Word Counts

Make sure you select the correct context for your word count

Graphs and the ability to add or delete word count entries

Deletions are permanent, so make sure you are deleting the correct entry!



An important note:

The majority of Wrimos report that community is the most important factor to their success in writing.

In one study at an academic library, writing productivity increased during write in events compared to solo writing.

Fast Fact:

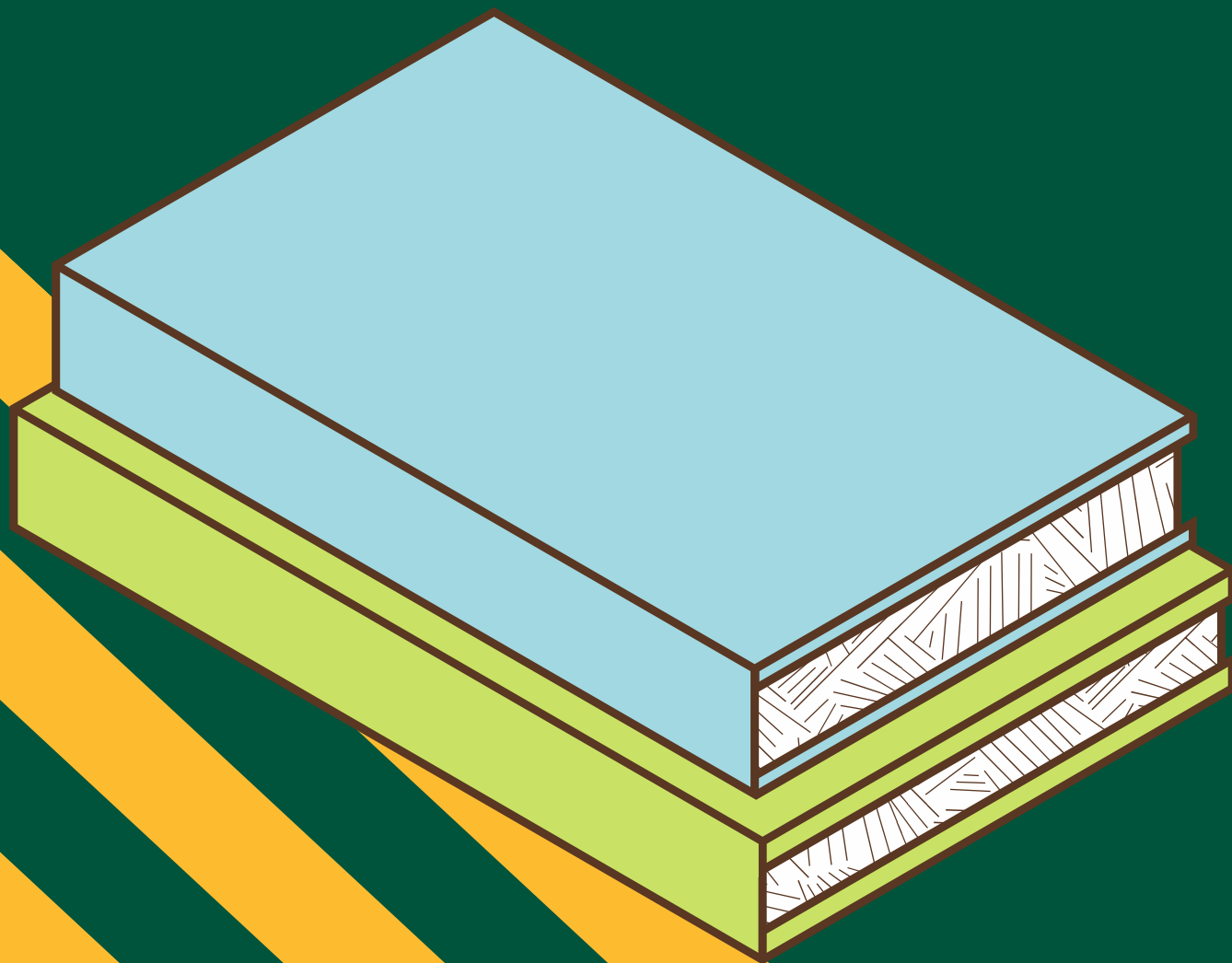
The majority of Come Write In locations are libraries.

COMMUNITY: FINDING YOUR PEOPLE

- The Buddy System-- one on one
- Writing Groups-- up to 12 people
- Regions-- usually geographic but limitless in number
- Write Ins-- depending on platform, can be a few or many
- Virtual Write Ins-- accessible and inclusive

WRITER'S RESOURCES

INSPIRATION AND
INSTRUCTION



NANOPREP 101 AND NOW WHAT?

Instructional Guides to help you through the planning and editing phases.

PEP TALKS FROM PUBLISHED AUTHORS

Tips and relatable content to keep you encouraged when things feel rough.

OFFICIAL EVENTS AND SOCIAL MEDIA EVENTS

During official events, there are more resources and there is more community available than the off-season Social Media Events can be anything from Instagram takeovers and Virtual write ins on Youtube to live tweets with editors.

STYLE VS. PROCESS

How scholarly writing and novel writing
overlap

Embrace the Writing Process: drafting, feedback, revision

A Poor Draft is Better Than No Draft: Dismantle the inner editor

"The quality of the final manuscript is not dependent on the level of quality of the draft of the manuscript; the quality of the final manuscript is dependent on the quality of the revisions we make to the draft."

(Burton, L. D. ,2009)

Scheduling Makes It Possible: with so many competing priorities, we have to commit dedicated time to writing



IT IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT

You can mix and match to best meet your needs or the needs of your community

For example...

For a creative writing course:

- Students use NaNoPrep 101 to help them plan their writing project
- Students create a project with a series of timed goals
- Students create writing groups to encourage and hold one another accountable



IT IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT

You can mix and match to best meet your needs or the needs of your community

For example...

For a medical storytelling:

- Students create a project
- Students create writing groups to encourage and hold one another accountable
- Classes are scheduled as write in events, with the instructor there to advise



IT IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT

You can mix and match to best meet your needs or the needs of your community

For example...

You would like to write a memoir:

- You create a project with a series of goals
- You join your local region to receive community support
- You attend write in events, to motivate you and help you continue your narrative



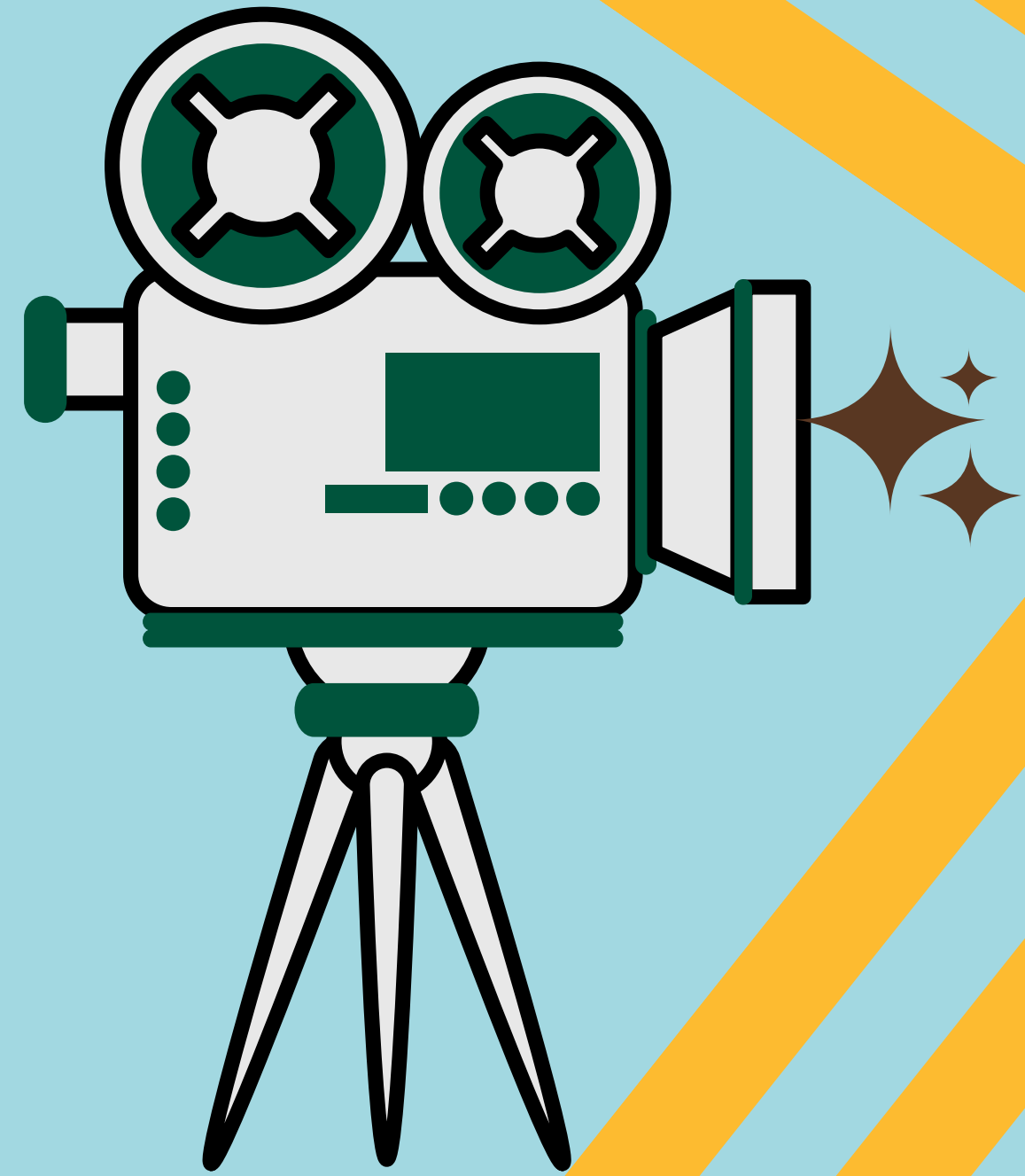
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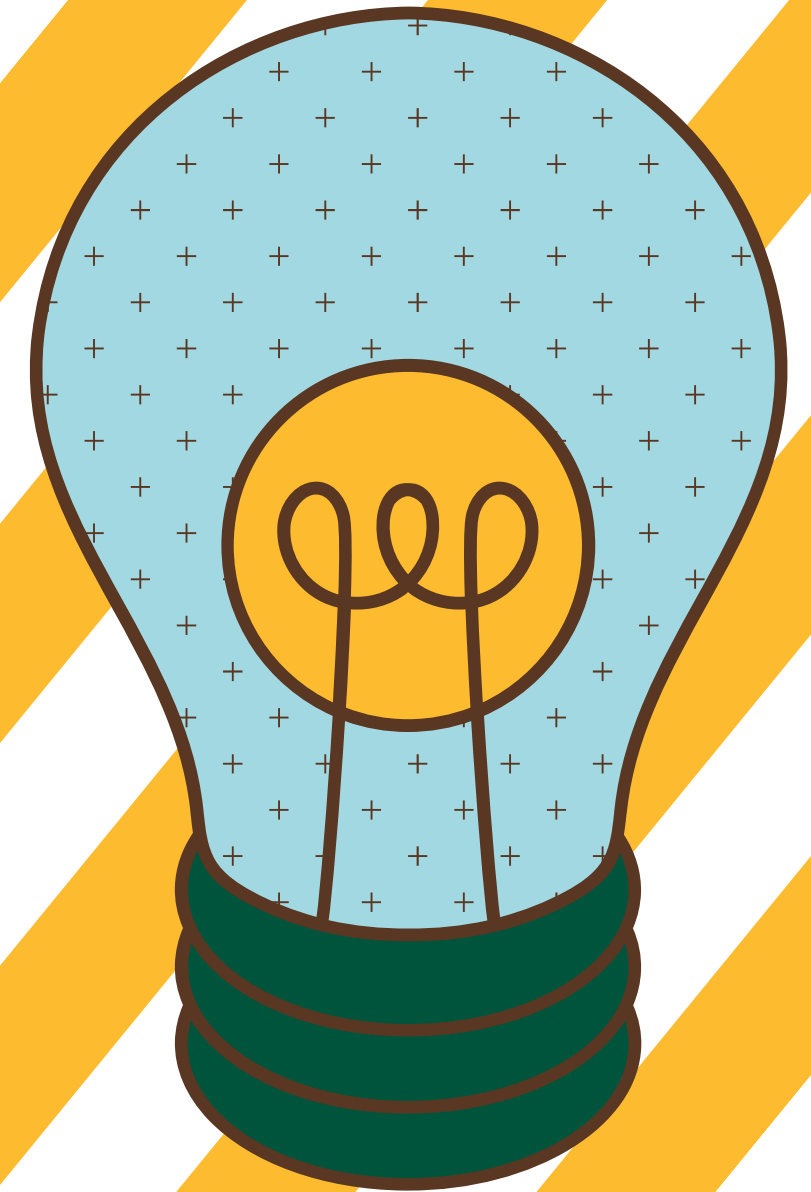
You would like to write a screenplay:

- You create a project with a series of goals
- You use the NaNo Prep 101 workbook to plan your story
- You reference Pep Talks and social media events to keep you motivated



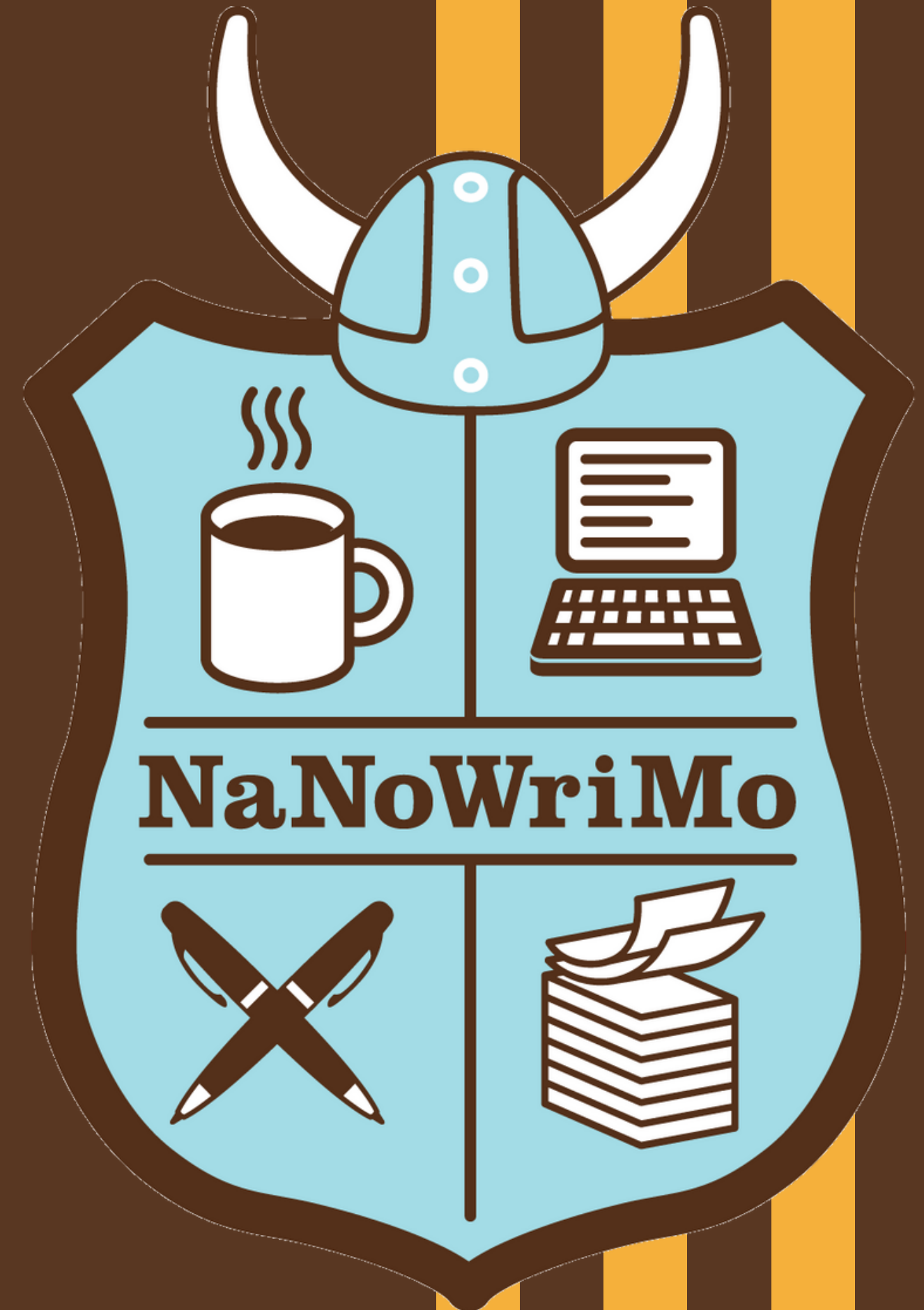
WHY THIS WORKS

1. Deadlines motivate
2. Progress motivates
3. Community accountability
motivates
4. Playing with your writing
makes the process more
enjoyable



WORD SPRINT!

A Word Sprint is an exercise in which a writer produces as much as they can during a short period of time. This can be done with or without a Writing Prompt.





WRITING PROMPT

If your plans for this Summer happened 30 years ago, how would they be different?

10 MINUTES

REGROUP





WRITING PROMPT

During your Summer plans 30 years ago, a mysterious stranger arrives. Who are they and what are they like?

5 MINUTES

IN PRACTICE

QUALITATIVE
AND
QUANTITATIVE

The J. D. Williams Library at the University of Mississippi measured the word counts of writers who attended Write In events and found that on days they attended events, the word count was double that of the days they wrote but did not attend.

"Over the four years I have used this program, I have observed that NaNoWriMo helped my students build their writing skills, stamina and confidence. They have also become more intentional in how they read. "

-- Carrie Deahl, Educator, Maryvale High School, Phoenix Arizona

**“You may not always
write well, but you
can edit a bad page.
You can’t edit a blank
page.”**

— Jodi Picoult

THANK YOU!





REFERENCES

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