

# Negative Trait Thesaurus A Writer S Guide

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*No Plot? No Problem!* St. Martin's Press

When a dissertation crosses my desk, I usually want to grab it by its metaphorical lapels and give it a good shake. "You know something!" I would say if it could hear me. "Now tell it to us in language we can understand!" Since its publication in 2005, *From Dissertation to Book* has helped thousands of young academic authors get their books beyond the thesis committee and into the hands of interested publishers and general readers. Now revised and updated to reflect the evolution of scholarly publishing, this edition includes a new chapter arguing that the future of academic writing is in the hands of young scholars who must create work that meets the broader expectations of readers rather than the narrow requirements of academic committees. At the heart of *From Dissertation to Book* is the idea that revising the dissertation is fundamentally a process of shifting its focus from the concerns of a narrow audience—a committee or advisors—to those of a broader scholarly audience that wants writing to be both informative and engaging. William Germano

offers clear guidance on how to do this, with advice on such topics as rethinking the table of contents, taming runaway footnotes, shaping chapter length, and confronting the limitations of jargon, alongside helpful timetables for light or heavy revision. Germano draws on his years of experience in both academia and publishing to show writers how to turn a dissertation into a book that an audience will actually enjoy, whether reading on a page or a screen. Germano also acknowledges that not all dissertations can or even should become books and explores other, often overlooked, options, such as turning them into journal articles or chapters in an edited work. With clear directions, engaging examples, and an eye for the idiosyncrasies of academic writing, *From Dissertation to Book* reveals to recent PhDs the secrets of careful and thoughtful revision—a skill that will be truly invaluable as they add "author" to their curriculum vitae.

## **For Writers Only** Writer's Digest Books

A treasure-trove of scene-writing wisdom from award-winning author and teacher Sandra Scofield To write a good scene, you have to know the following: • Every scene has an **EVENT** • Every scene has a **FUNCTION** in the narrative • Every scene has a **STRUCTURE**: a beginning, middle, and end • Every scene has a **PULSE** *The Scene Book* is a fundamental guide to crafting more effective scenes in fiction. In clear, simple language, Sandra Scofield shows both the beginner and the seasoned writer how to build better scenes, the underpinning of any good narrative.

## The Rural Setting Thesaurus: A Writer's Guide to Personal and Natural Places Penguin

*Techniques of the Selling Writer* provides solid instruction for people who want to write and sell fiction, not just to talk and study about it. It gives the background, insights, and specific procedures needed by all beginning writers. Here one can learn how to group words into copy that moves, movement into scenes, and scenes into stories; how to develop characters, how to revise and polish, and finally, how to sell the product. No one can teach talent, but the practical skills of the professional writer's craft can certainly be taught. The correct and imaginative use of these skills can shorten any beginner's apprenticeship by years. This is the book for writers who want to turn rejection slips into cashable checks.

## Writer's Guide to Character Traits Lawrence Erlbaum Assoc Incorporated

Crafting likable, interesting characters is a balancing act, and finding that perfect mix of strengths and weaknesses can be difficult. Not only does a well-drawn protagonist need positive attributes to help him succeed, he must also have flaws that humanize him and give him something to overcome. The same is true of villains and the rest of the story's supporting cast. So how can writers figure out which flaws best fit their characters? Which negative traits will create personality clashes and conflict while making success difficult? Nothing adds complexity like character flaws. Inside *The Negative Trait Thesaurus* you'll find: \* A vast collection of flaws to explore when building a character's personality. Each entry includes possible causes, attitudes, behaviors, thoughts, and related emotions \* Real examples from literature, film, or television to show how each flaw can create life challenges and relational friction \* Advice on building layered and memorable characters from the ground up \* An in-depth look at backstory, emotional wounds, and how pain twists a character's view of himself and his world, influencing behavior and decision making \* A flaw-centric exploration of character arc, relationships, motivation, and basic needs \* Tips on how to best show a character's flaws to readers while avoiding common pitfalls \* Downloadable tools to aid writers in character creation *The Negative*

Trait Thesaurus sheds light on your character's dark side. Written in list format and fully indexed, this brainstorming resource is perfect for creating deep, flawed characters readers will relate to.

Writing the Breakout Novel Workbook Penguin

The ultimate tool for students! Tired of using the same few phrases in all your presentations? Can't find the right expression to begin your college admissions essay? Stuck with a drab, uninspiring conclusion at the end of your research paper? Roget's Thesaurus of Words for Students will help you find the perfect words and phrases for any writing assignment. Unlike other titles that simply list related terms for each entry, this volume offers a pronunciation guide, definition, and a sample sentence for every word you look up, as well as for each of the synonyms under that entry. It also features hundreds of useful terms every student should know, making it the most essential tool on your desk when you're working on an essay or presentation. With Roget's Thesaurus of Words for Students at your side, you'll impress your teachers and advance straight to the head of the class!

Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases Jadd Publishing

Explores the techniques of effective character development in the processing of writing novels to take the author's stories from good to great, including how to determine which arc is right for your character, why you should never pit plot against character, and how to avoid the pitfalls of writing novels without character arcs.

Naughty Words for Nice Writers JADD Publishing

Each year thousands of fiction writers, from beginners to bestselling author, benefit from Sol Stein's sold-out workshops, featured appearances at writers' conferences, software for writers, on-line columns, and his popular first book for writers, Stein on Writing. Stein practices what he teaches: He is the author of nine novels, including the million-copy bestseller *The Magician*, as well as editor of such major writers as James Baldwin, Jack Higgins, Elia Kazan, Budd Schulberg, W. H. Auden, and Jacques Barzun, and the teacher and editor of several current bestselling authors. What sets Stein apart is his practical approach. He provides specific techniques that speed writers to successful publication. *How to Grow a Novel* is not just a book, but an invaluable workshop in print. It includes details and examples from Stein's editorial work with a #1 bestselling novelist as well as talented newcomers. Stein takes the reader backstage in the development of memorable characters and fascinating plots. The chapter on dialogue overflows with solutions for short-story writers, novelists, screenwriters, and playwrights. Stein shows what readers are looking for-- and what they avoid-- in the experience of reading fiction. The book offers guidelines-- and warnings-- of special value for nonfiction writers who want to move into fiction. Stein points to the little, often overlooked things that damage the writer's authority without the writer knowing it. And this book, like no other writing book, takes the reader behind the scenes

of the publishing business as it affects writers of every level of experience, revealing the hard truths that are kept behind shut doors. [Merriam-Webster's Everyday Language Reference Set](#) Ten Speed Press Readers connect to characters with depth, ones who have experienced life's ups and downs. To deliver key players that are both realistic and compelling, writers must know them intimately—not only who they are in the present story, but also what made them that way. Of all the formative experiences in a character's past, none are more destructive than emotional wounds. The aftershocks of trauma can change who they are, alter what they believe, and sabotage their ability to achieve meaningful goals, all of which will affect the trajectory of your story. Identifying the backstory wound is crucial to understanding how it will shape your character's behavior, and *The Emotional Wound Thesaurus* can help. Inside, you'll find:

- A database of traumatic situations common to the human experience
- An in-depth study on a wound's impact, including the fears, lies, personality shifts, and dysfunctional behaviors that can arise from different painful events
- An extensive analysis of character arc and how the wound and any resulting unmet needs fit into it
- Techniques on how to show the past experience to readers in a way that is both engaging and revelatory while avoiding the pitfalls of info dumps and telling
- A showcase of popular characters and how their traumatic experiences reshaped them, leading to very specific story goals
- A Backstory Wound Profile tool that will enable you to document your characters' negative past experiences and the aftereffects

Root your characters in reality by giving them an authentic wound that causes difficulties and prompts them to strive for inner growth to overcome it. With its easy-to-read format and over 100 entries packed with information, *The Emotional Wound Thesaurus* is a crash course in psychology for creating characters that feel incredibly real to readers.

*The Emotional Wound Thesaurus: A Writer's Guide to Psychological Trauma* JADD Publishing

*Blueprint for Screenwriting* demystifies the writing process by developing a "blueprint" for writers to follow for each new screenplay--from original concept to completed script. Author and international script consultant Dr. Rachel Ballon explores the writing craft and emphasizes creativity in the writing process. She blends her expertise in script analysis and writing coaching with her personal experience as a screenwriter to help writers construct their stories and characters. Starting with the story's framework, Dr. Ballon helps readers to understand the key "building blocks" of story structure and character development, including characters' emotional and psychological states, story conflicts, and scene and act structure. She also covers the essential components in the script writing process, such as outlines, script treatments, synopses, and formats. Dr. Ballon devotes a chapter to overcoming writer's block--the

writer's greatest obstacle--and offers guidance for taking the next steps once a script is completed. A practical tool for any writer, this distinctive resource: \*offers a blueprint for writers to follow, breaking the writing process down into specific, easy-to-follow steps; \*stresses the psychology of the characters as well as that of the writer; and \*offers first-hand knowledge of the screenwriting process and gives practical advice for completing and marketing scripts. With its unique and insightful approach to the writing process, this book will be indispensable for scriptwriters, fiction writers, and professional writers, and it will serve as a useful text in screenwriting courses.

*Sorrow's Fall* Davonne Burns

"So how can writers figure out which flaws best fit their characters? Which negative traits will create personality clashes and conflict while making success difficult? Nothing adds complexity like character flaws. Inside the *Negative Trait Thesaurus* you'll find a vast collection of flaws to explore when building a character's personality, advice on building layered and memorable characters from the ground up, an in-depth look at backstory, emotional wounds, and how pain twists a character's view of himself, and his world, influencing behavior and decision making, a flaw-centric exploration of character arc, relationships, motivation, and basic needs, tips on how to best show a character's flaws to readers while avoiding common pitfalls, and downloadable tools to aid writers in character creation."--

[The Courier of the Ozarks](#) Litres

Every story starts with a character who is motivated by a need and has a goal that can resolve it. Whether their objective is to find a life partner, bring a killer to justice, overthrow a cruel regime, or something else, conflict transforms a story premise into something fresh. Physical obstacles, adversaries, moral dilemmas, deep-seated doubts and personal struggles...these not only block a character's external progress, they become a gateway for internal growth. The right conflict will build tension and high stakes, challenge characters as they traverse their arcs, and most importantly, keep readers emotionally invested from beginning to end. Inside Volume 1 of *The Conflict Thesaurus*, you'll find: \* A myriad of conflict options in the form of relationship friction, failures and mistakes, moral dilemmas and temptations, pressure and ticking clocks, and no-win scenarios \* An analysis of each scenario that maps out possible

complications and catastrophes, internal struggles, and the stressful impacts on a character's basic human needs \*

Guidance on using conflict to influence your protagonist's character arc through opportunities for failure and success \*

Master class instruction on internal conflict: what it is, why it's important, and how to incorporate it at the scene and story levels

\* Information about the role conflict plays in generating high stakes that are personally significant to the character, upping the tension for readers \*

A breakdown of the various adversaries your character might encounter along the way Don't give your character a break. Keep the hits coming with a variety of obstacles that will force them to work harder to get what they want. With over 100 entries arranged in a user-friendly format, *The Conflict Thesaurus* is the guide you need to write intense and satisfying fiction readers won't forget.

#### How to Grow a Novel Macmillan

Your future as a writer is in your hands. Whether you are a newcomer or an accomplished professional, a novelist, story writer, or a writer of nonfiction, you will find this book a wealth of immediately useful guidance not available anywhere else. As Sol Stein, renowned editor, author, and instructor, explains, "This is not a book of theory. It is a book of useable solutions-- how to fix writing that is flawed, how to improve writing that is good, how to create interesting writing in the first place." You will find one of the great unspoken secrets of craftsmanship in Chapter 5, called "Markers: The Key to Swift Characterization." In Chapter 7, Stein reveals for the first time in print the wonderful system for creating instant conflict developed in the Playwrights Group of the Actors Studio, of which he was a founder. In "Secrets of Good Dialogue," the premier teacher of dialogue gives you the instantly useable techniques that not only make verbal exchanges exciting but that move the story forward immediately. You won't need to struggle with flashbacks or background material after you've read Chapter 14, which shows you how to bring background into the foreground. Writers of both fiction and nonfiction will relish the amphetamines for speeding up pace, and the many ways to liposuction flab, as well as how to tap originality and recognize what successful titles have in common. You'll discover literary values that enhance writing, providing depth and resonance. You'll bless the day you read Chapters 32 and 33 and discover why revising by starting at page one can be a serious mistake, and how to revise without growing cold on your manuscript. In the pages of this book, nonfiction writers will find a passport to the new revolution in journalism and a guide to using the techniques of fiction to enhance nonfiction. Fresh, useful, informative, and fun to read and reread, Stein on Writing is a book you will mark up, dog-ear, and cherish.

#### *Oxford American Writer's Thesaurus* The Negative Trait Thesaurus A Writer's Guide to Character Flaws

Used. Abused. Hated. All Sorrow wants is acceptance, to be

seen as more than a weapon. She could save him... Or kill him. Emotions are a liability for an assassin. As a telepath, sixteen-year-old Sorrow is assailed by his target's fear and desperation as he closes in for the kill, the voices of his victims haunting him day and night. In defense, he has learned to shut off his own emotions... Until he meets her. Sarin is as powerful as she is beautiful, but there is something terrifying about her—something Sorrow knows could kill him.

#### *The New Rules: A Literary Agent's Guide to Growing Your Audience in 14 Steps* JADD Publishing

It's a writer's job to create compelling characters who can withstand life's fallout without giving up. But building authentic, memorable heroes is no easy task. To forge realistic characters, we must hobble them with flaws that set them back while giving them positive attributes to help them achieve their goals. So how do writers choose the right blend of strengths for their characters—attributes that will render them admirable and worth rooting for—without making it too easy for them to succeed? Character creation can be hard, but it's about to get a lot easier. Inside *The Positive Trait Thesaurus*, you'll find:

- \* A large selection of attributes to choose from when building a personality profile. Each entry lists possible causes for why a trait might emerge, along with associated attitudes, behaviors, thoughts, and emotions
- \* Real character examples from literature, film, or television to show how an attribute drives actions and decisions, influences goals, and steers relationships
- \* Advice on using positive traits to immediately hook readers while avoiding common personality pitfalls
- \* Insight on human needs and morality, and how each determines the strengths that emerge in heroes and villains alike
- \* Information on the key role positive attributes play within the character arc, and how they're vital to overcoming fatal flaws and achieving success
- \* Downloadable tools for organizing a character's attributes and providing a deeper understanding of his past, his needs, and the emotional wounds he must overcome

If you find character creation difficult or worry that your cast members all seem the same, *The Positive Trait Thesaurus* is brimming with ideas to help you develop one-of-a-kind, dynamic characters that readers will love. Extensively indexed, with entries written in a user-friendly list format, this brainstorming resource is perfect for any character creation project.

#### *The Scene Book* University of Oklahoma Press

"Written by writers for writers, this innovative thesaurus truly advances the time-honored word source. Some 25,000 word meanings and connotations are elucidated by means of more than 300,000 synonyms, 10,000 antonyms, 250 word notes written by noted authors, and generous listings of example sentences. Many

special features, such as usage notes, word spectrums, and a language guide, further clarify a word's many nuances and assist the user in finding just the right expression. For all readers, wordsmiths, scribblers, and hacks, Oxford's new thesaurus should be on every library's reference shelf."--"Reference that rocks," *American Libraries*, May 2005.

#### *Blueprint for Screenwriting* Penguin

Following on the heels of Lisa Cron's breakout first book, *Wired for Story*, this writing guide reveals how to use cognitive storytelling strategies to build a scene-by-scene blueprint for a riveting story. It's every novelist's greatest fear: pouring their blood, sweat, and tears into writing hundreds of pages only to realize that their story has no sense of urgency, no internal logic, and so is a page one rewrite. The prevailing wisdom in the writing community is that there are just two ways around this problem: pantsing (winging it) and plotting (focusing on the external plot). Story coach Lisa Cron has spent her career discovering why these methods don't work and coming up with a powerful alternative, based on the science behind what our brains are wired to crave in every story we read (and it's not what you think). In *Story Genius* Cron takes you, step-by-step, through the creation of a novel from the first glimmer of an idea, to a complete multilayered blueprint—including fully realized scenes—that evolves into a first draft with the authority, richness, and command of a riveting sixth or seventh draft.

#### *The Positive Trait Thesaurus: A Writer's Guide to Character Attributes* BenBella Books, Inc.

A great book is no longer enough. An author platform is the most powerful key to success in today's saturated market, and increasingly, publishers are demanding that new authors come to them with an existing audience of interested followers. Authors who are self-publishing have an even bigger need to build an engaged audience. Social media makes building the author platform easier than ever, but, unfortunately, most authors struggle to get it right. How can authors create their unique platform, connect with followers, write a manuscript, and grow their business? In *Build Your Author Platform: The New Rules*, top literary agent Carole Jelen and tech expert Michael McCallister apply their combined 35 years of expertise to outline 14 practical, hands-on steps to create a presence that will produce high book sales and expanded audience. From pre-publication through book launch and beyond, authors will learn how to:

- Define goals and a unique brand
- Employ successful website strategies, content, social presence, media authority, and training
- Secure positive reviews
- Attract viewers efficiently without cost

Filled with detailed lessons, examples, success stories, and techniques used by marketing departments at major publishers, *Build Your Author Platform* is an indispensable guide for

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anyone looking for insight into publishing, promoting, and marketing books. Build Your Author Platform Maupin House Publishing, Inc. From the author of ""Screenplays That Sell"" comes his newest book that reveals a one-minute technique for getting one's screenplay or novel read by the major powers of Hollywood. A Writer's Guide to Psychological Trauma Jadd Publishing "I see but one rule: to be clear." Stendhal If only it were as easy for most writers as it was for Stendhal. The truth about the act of writing is much more varied, even violent. In fact, there seem to be as many contradictory admonitions about how to go about doing it as there are writers themselves. With that in mind, writer Sophy Burnham has collected the thoughts of some of the greatest writers and laced them with her own observations and experiences of the writer's life. With an emphasis on the emotions that writing wrings from those who practice it, Burnham writes about beginning a work prematurely, the ecstasy when the writing is really flowing, the crash that can follow the flight -- and how to pick yourself up and continue. Most of all, you will be reassured, enlightened, and inspired to learn that, in your own writing struggles, you are not alone.

Story Genius St. Martin's Press

Making readers care and feel like they 're part of the story should be the number one goal of all writers. Ironically, many storytellers fail to maximize one of fiction 's most powerful elements to achieve this: the setting. Rather than being a simple backdrop against which events unfold, every location has the potential to become a conduit for conveying emotion, characterizing the cast, providing opportunities for deep point of view, and revealing significant backstory. Inside this volume, you will find:

- A list of the sights, smells, tastes, textures, and sounds for over 120 urban settings
- Possible sources of conflict for each location to help you brainstorm ways to naturally complicate matters for your characters
- Advice on how to make every piece of description count so you can maintain the right pace and keep readers engaged
- Tips on utilizing the five senses to encourage readers to more fully experience each moment by triggering their own emotional memories
- Information on how to use the setting to characterize a story 's cast through personalization and emotional values while using emotional triggers to steer their decisions
- A review of specific challenges that arise when choosing an urban location, along with common descriptive pitfalls that should be avoided

The Urban Setting Thesaurus helps you tailor each setting to your characters while creating a realistic, textured world your readers will long to return to, even after the book closes.