



# World Building

## Step 1. Decide on a specific setting

Whether you're creating a new world entirely, remixing elements from a few of your favourite worlds, or basing your world on present reality, make your setting specific. Find something specific in the world you create to really talk about what matters to you.

Pick a place. Give it a name. Pick a time period. It doesn't matter what you choose, just be definitive as details bring a story to life. Picking a specific setting can also help to shape your characters and the challenges they will face.

### Things that might be useful to think about:

- Environment (e.g. natural, built, space).
- Landscape (e.g. mountainous, cityscape)
- Political system
- Economic system
- Structure cZgcVYfm

na Um\Yd'hc Zjfg'h\]b\_ 'cZ'Ubcj Y'cf'g\cfhg'cfmnci \Uj Y'Yb'cmYX'fYWbhnt'  
7ca d'YHY'h\Y'hUVY'Zcf'h\]g'g'cfm

Name of the place	
Environment	
The climate of the place	
Landscape	
Time period	
Political system	
Economic system	
Structure cZgcVYfm	

### Now do the same for the world your story will be set in.

Name of the place	
Environment	
The climate of the place	
Landscape	
Time period	
Political system	
Economic system	
Structure cZgcVYfm	



## Who Writes the Future?

### Step 2. Select your story idea/concept based on a technology or concept.

Your story will flow better if you write about an issue you are passionate about or explore a concept that intrigues you. Sci-fi stories often begin with a technology that is affecting a society positively or negatively.

Use this space to make some notes. When you have found out about several areas of research you can choose one for your story.

Research area	What is it about?	How might it affect society?
Artificial Intelligence	Computers which have cognitive abilities similar to, or exceeding that of humans.	Humans may be relieved of many of the roles they currently perform giving them more social or leisure time. Humans may become inferior to AIs; perhaps expendable.



## Who Writes the Future?

### Step 3. Select your theme

A theme is the main subject of your story, the ideology you are discussing. So if you can establish that right away, you'll notice yourself creating a more standout story, even if it at first your story seems like a simple concept.

#### Examples of themes:

Alienation - Betrayal - Chaos & order - Circle of life - Coming of age - Compassion & forgiving - Corruption - Deceit - Dissatisfaction - Family - Fate and free will - Faith and doubt - Fear - Feminine strength - Friendship - Good vs. evil - Identity crisis - Illusion of power - Individual vs. society - Intolerance & acceptance - Judgement & bias - Justice - Loss of innocence - Lost love - Love vs. hate - Materialism - Memory and the past - Natural vs. artificial - Obsession - Oppression - Power & corruption - Racism - Religion - Rich & Poor - Secrecy & openness - Survival - Technology in society - Vanity - Wisdom

**Thinking about the technology or concept you chose, and how it might affect society, what is the theme of your story?**

## Character and Story

Now we have built a world and chosen a theme, we need a character and a story.

### Step 4. Decide the point of view

Point-of-view is always important in writing any story, but it is really prominent in short story writing and therefore should be something to consider.

- First person:** First person narratives are great for unreliable narrators and for making the story seem like an anecdote being told to the reader. They are less trustworthy as a result, but can add flair and their individuality to the story.
- Second person:** Though usually not the ideal perspective, second person can be effective in a short story when done well. Often the shorter, the better, with second person, as it can be taxing and hard for readers to continuously imagine themselves in the story, which is what second person implies.
- Third person:** Third person narration may seem like the safe option for a short story, however it can often be the most flexible of the points-of-view.



## Who Writes the Future?

### Step 5. Develop your character

How you develop your character may vary, but ideally you'll want to tap into their **wants**, **needs**, and **flaws** first and foremost. You may find this **template** useful.

General		Appearance	
Name			Eye colour
Nickname			Skin colour
Gender identity			Hair colour
Age			Hair style
Birthdate			Height
Occupation			Body type
<b>Description</b>		<b>Qualities</b>	
		Adaptability ☆☆☆☆☆ Confidence ☆☆☆☆☆ Creativity ☆☆☆☆☆ Integrity ☆☆☆☆☆ Intelligence ☆☆☆☆☆ Strength ☆☆☆☆☆ ..... ☆☆☆☆☆	
Personal		History	
Likes		Family	
Dislikes		Friends	
Hopes		Enemies	
Fears		<b>Back Story</b>	
Habits			
Pastimes			
Personality			



## Who Writes the Future?

### Step 6. Outline your story

After you've defined these things you can now write the short story outline, ideally this should connect your setting and concept to your story's theme and your main character.

At a fundamental level, every short story follows this structure:

- **Plot Point 1: A brief insight into ordinary life.** This may only be a phrase, sentence or short paragraph, or it may take up a large portion of your short story.
- **Plot Point 2: Something out of the ordinary happens.** What this might be is up to you. It might be that someone or something interrupts the character's usual way of life, or it might be more subtle. Whatever you choose, a change occurs.
- **Plot Point 3: The character responds to the change.** This can be by ignoring it and remaining unaffected, or by addressing it and experiencing the consequences, no matter how insignificant or significant they may be.

Alternatively,

- **Your character wants something or is missing something**
- **Your character tries to get what they want and obstacles are in the way**
- **The character gets what they want but they are changed by the experience.**

Most short stories do not have an ending the way a novel would. The best short stories have a little twist, with an unexpected conclusion.

**Story Outline:** (remember, you're not writing your story yet, just describing the outline)



# First Draft

## Step 7. Write your story!

It's time to put pen to paper. Don't focus on getting it right at this point but rather on getting it written. The most important thing is that you get to the end of a first draft. You can then work on refining it.

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing.



# Who Writes the Future?

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing.



# Who Writes the Future?

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing.