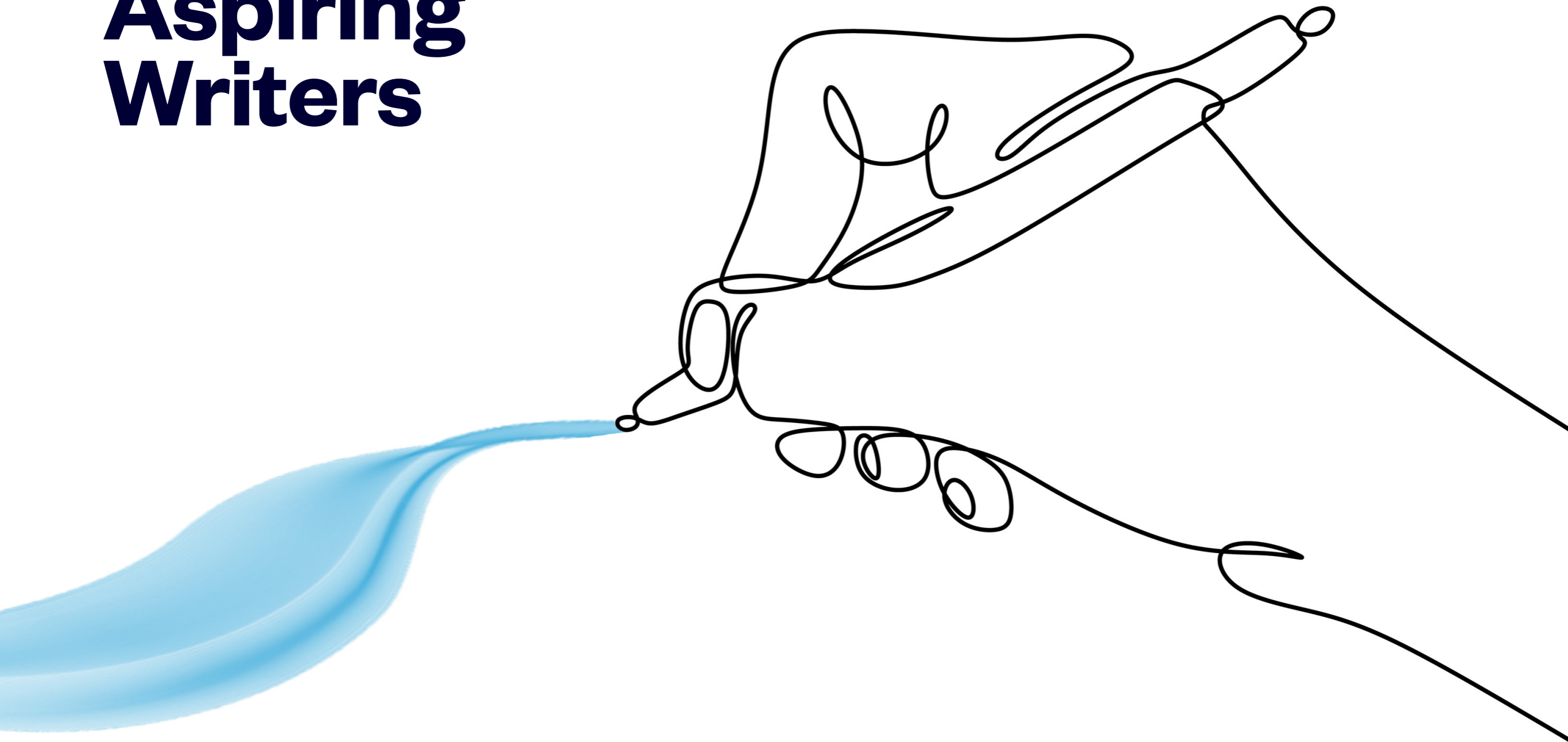


*Courtesy of Jackson E. Graham, Author
Young Oak Publishing LLC*

Resources for Aspiring Writers



MOTIVATION

COMPETITIONS OR SUBMISSIONS

Look for **local** (libraries, writer's groups) or national competitions to participate in to motivate yourself to write on a smaller scale (and without much at stake) towards a deadline.

Master's Review <https://mastersreview.com>

Craft <https://www.craftliterary.com>

Kingdom Pen <http://kingdompen.org>

Story Embers <https://storyembers.org/contact/>

NANOWRIMO

This great organization provides oodles of motivation for writers everywhere all year long. Traditionally, National Novel Writing Month was November, but they have expanded to include a Young Writer's NaNoWriMo Program which holds events in April and July.

<https://nanowrimo.org>

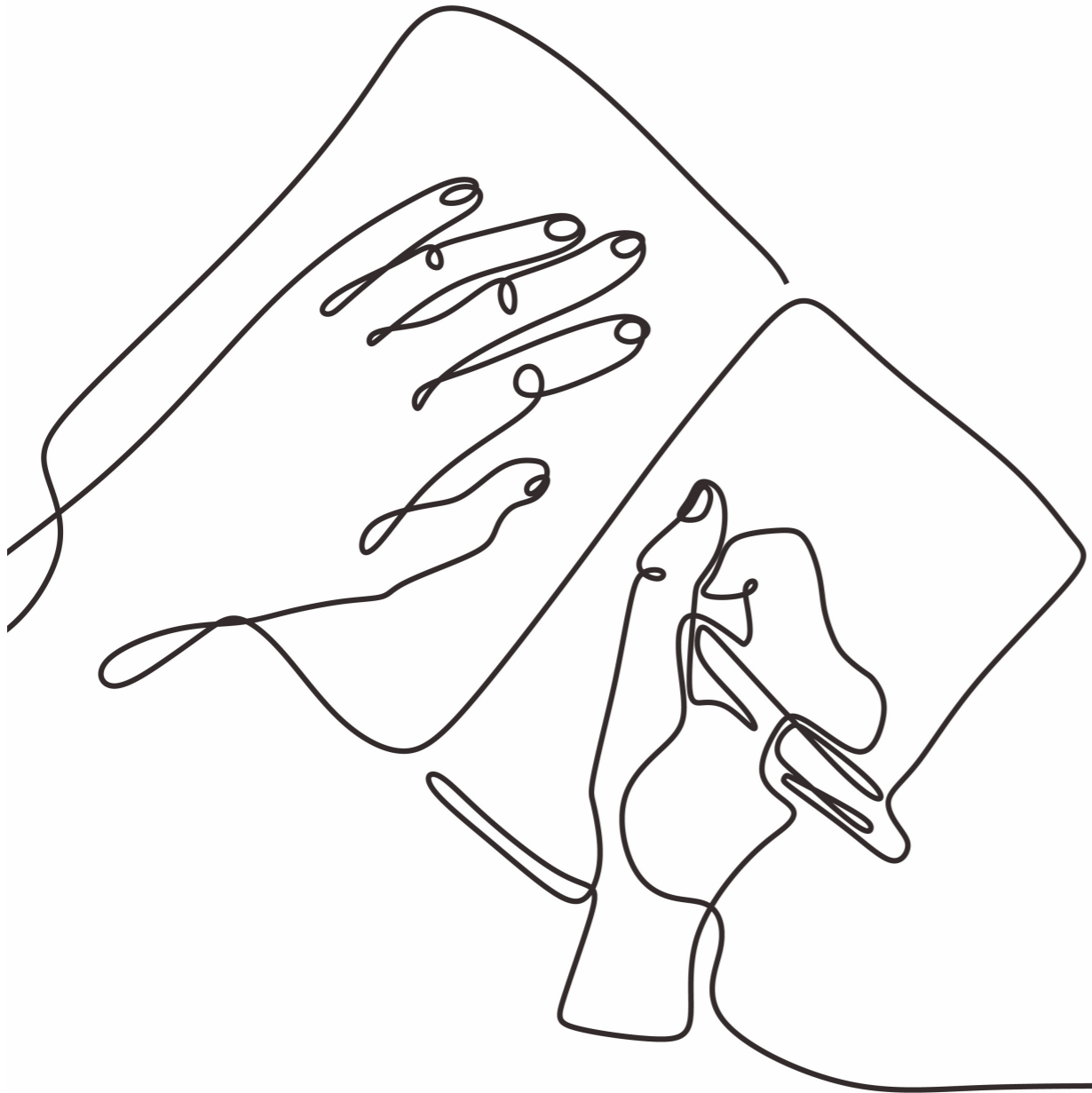
<https://ywp.nanowrimo.org>

MAKE A HABIT

Write every day. Even if that means editing, developing ideas, organizing, journaling, or drafting.

EDUCATION

Look for learning opportunities online or through your local library.



PLATFORM

The best time to start working on your author platform is now. It's best to have something established by the time you're ready to publish.

WEBSITE

The digital world expects a digital presence. Think about how you might brand your work or yourself as an author professionally.

GoDaddy - Allows you to purchase your website domain name before someone else nabs it. As your site gets traffic the value goes up. Don't forget to renew and be in danger of losing your valuable brand name! <https://www.godaddy.com> (There are several other ICANN registrars to purchase a domain name from.)

Wix - Offers a free entry-level membership that can be graduated up as needed. They also offer templates, apps and functions to those who don't know about website coding. <https://www.wix.com> You can also pay someone to create/maintain your website for you.

RELATIONSHIPS

Form relationships with readers, libraries, bookstore owners, and other writers through writing groups before you publish.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Shoot for the best professional look possible. Always think of your digital presence in a professional light. Always be sure to thoroughly study the legalese on copyright and restrictions for any photo, graphic, or video usage.

Canva - You can make many promotional graphics using templates on Canva. They offer free and premium membership levels. (They also did have a data breach recently.) <https://www.canva.com/join/raisin-homely-length>

Facebook - You'll need to set up a personal page and then an author page that hangs off of that personal profile (using Create, Page, Artist/Band/Public Figure). Research what settings to use for the author page that best suit your needs, including who sees your information. www.facebook.com

Email List Resources - These powerful email marketing resources now have a free entry level memberships! Create landing pages, and deliver freebies to new mailing list customers!

ConvertKit - <https://convertkit.com>
MailChimp - www.mailchimp.com



BUSINESS LICENSING

If you choose to set up a business for self-publishing (which does grant additional protections), check with your state's business licensing entity, the IRS, and your city (if required).

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

You will need to change your password with the Library of Congress (PrePub Book Link) site at their prescribed interval to avoid losing access to your account. As an additional copyright protection, you can register with the Library of Congress site for a control number for each book title prior to publication. Include this control number on your copyright page. https://locexternal.servicenowservices.com/auth?id=auth_home

PUBLISHING

POD (Print-On-Demand) & eBooks

Print-on-demand makes self-publishing very affordable for the new author. No need to invest in a huge stack of books. eBooks bring in a significantly lower income, so price wisely. Remember that there will be a cut from the print service, as well as a percentage from the bookseller. Your royalty will be the remainder and will not be paid immediately.

KDP (Formerly CreateSpace; Amazon company) KDP will **not** pay royalties to any authors under the age of 18 at this time, so you can either wait until you turn 18, or work out the setup to pay royalties (and file tax info) under your parent/guardian's SS#. This would affect their taxable income, and have other implications for your platform.

https://kdp.amazon.com/en_US/

IngramSpark <https://www.ingramspark.com>

iBooks and **KOBO** are some other options for ebooks.

ISBN

Bowker is the **ONLY** source for your ISBNs, if you want to have the most freedom with how/where you publish. ISBNs are **NOT** free, and the best pricing will be in bulk. KDP (Amazon) does offer free ISBNs for your titles, **but** you will be tied to their restrictions forever. <http://>

<https://www.myidentifiers.com>

COVER/PRINTING

IMAGES/COVER DESIGN

Be careful with copyright restrictions and attribution requirements!

Unsplash - The internet's source of freely usable images. They provide information on how to credit the source, as well as an opportunity to tip them. <https://unsplash.com>

Pixabay - Free images and royalty-free stock, but there are restrictions. Check the specifics for each image/video you wish to use. <https://pixabay.com>

PNG Tree - 2-image daily download limit for free. Images may require attribution. <https://pngtree.com>

Canva - Free book cover design/templates available. <https://www.canva.com/join/raisin-homely-length>

Fiverr -

Be sure to check credentials, reviews, and samples of work (especially for your genre) before contracting with a provider. Some are guilty of illegal use of other company's logos! Also check to be sure you will be given the source files with your order so that you can own & update them.

MARKETING

Vistaprint - LOTS of great deals on business cards and other marketing needs and frequent coupons.

<https://www.vistaprint.com/?GP=04%2f27%2f2020+18%3a18%3a36&GPS=5667576196&GNF=1>

Shutterstock - LOTS of great (and often free) deals on items usable for marketing. Sign up with your email to get these valuable coupons and design on their site. <https://www.shutterstock.com>

Canva - Design various graphics for social media with ease. Designs are downloadable. Free level as well as premium. <https://www.canva.com/join/raisin-homely-length>

PROFESSIONAL

The best time to start working on your author platform is now. It's best to have something established by the time you're ready to publish.

ALLI

Membership with the Alliance of Independent Authors offers access to discounts and professional resources to protect and promote your work. <https://www.allianceindependentauthors.org>

SCRIVENER

Powerful, professional writing software that allows you to organize your project in flexible and creative ways, and to export your document into multiple formats for printing. <https://a.paddle.com/v2/click/49535/109457?link=1570>

AUTOCRIT

Web-based editing tool that provides powerful analysis of your writing project and focuses on where to edit for improvement. https://www.autocrit.com/?utm_source=Affiliate&utm_medium=Affiliate

AEON TIMELINE

Timelining software that is customizable for imaginary time spans. Allows for moving of elements and printing. Get a 10% discount on this product using the code: GRAHAMTIMELINE. <https://www.aeontimeline.com>



ART CREDITS

Line Drawing Illustrations:

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