



Author Academy Writing Course

The A-Z of Getting Your Book Written & Publish
Ready!



Flow of Chapters for your Book



What is Chapter Flow?

The structure of a novel is important because it contributes to the clarity and flow of your story.



What do book chapters do?

First, let's look at what book chapters do:

- They give the reader space to pause and digest the plot developments and complications of the preceding chapter or scene.
- They signal transition: A change in story location, a character embarking on a new goal, or the closing of one story arc and the start of another.



7 Tips on how to write well-structured chapters

1. Use thematically relevant titles that tie your book together

Chapter titles can contribute useful structure, however. A title may:

- Hint what the coming chapter is about
- Summarise (overtly or subtly) important themes or ideas in your story
- Give useful information (such as a date or geographic location), helping the reader to understand where (or when) the events of your chapter occur



2. Try various ways to structure your novel using chapter titles

1. Attracting the attention of readers
2. Finding and emphasizing each chapter's focus
3. Orienting your fictional world and creating signposts that guide readers through your story.



3. Learn how to start a chapter in a story with structure-enhancing links

Besides using titles, you can also structure your chapters by paying careful attention to how they start, develop and end.



4. Think about how long each chapter should be

Short, action-heavy chapters help to speed up the pace. Longer, reflective chapters that linger over setting or historical description give the reader a breather.



5. Vary the length of your chapters for interesting novel structure



The ideal length of your chapter depends on:

- Your genre and its conventions
- The pace and mood you want to create



6. Think about the broad structure of your novel & internal chapter structure

The start of a chapter serves several important functions:

- Roping the reader into the scene
- Creating continuity or a shift from the previous section (a change in point of view, time period, setting or style)
- Giving readers an idea of what the focus of the next part of your story will be



6. (continued)

Think about the broad structure of your novel & internal chapter structure

- To structure your chapter's development, ask:
- What chain of events does the chapter's opening set in motion?
- What changes might take place in the '5 Ws' of story (who, what, why, where, or when) as the chapter unfolds?



6. (continued)

Think about the broad structure of your novel & internal chapter structure

Let's talk about some places where it
makes sense to create a break. Some might
seem more obvious than others



7. Use visual tools & outlines to make your novel's structure clear & flexible



When it comes to creating story structure, visual tools are extremely helpful. Think of chapters as convenient story units that you can move around as you want. Let's discuss a few of these now



Exercise

Chapter Outline Worksheet





What's Next?

**Start Writing or Re-
writing your chapters**