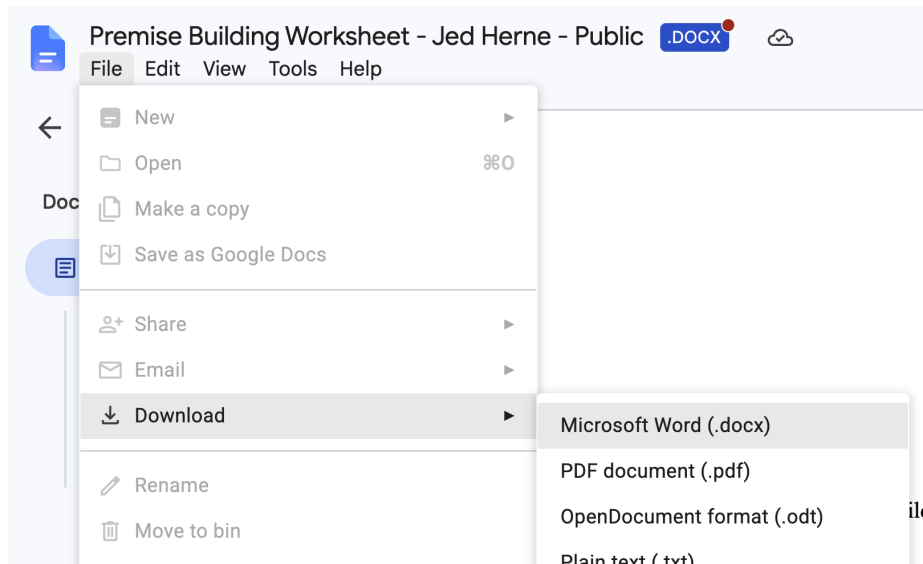


Premise Building Worksheet

by Jed Herne

Note: to edit this worksheet, you will need to first download a copy.

Do this by going to File > Download > Microsoft Word:



Then, feel free to delete this explainer text once you're done.

Overview:

Use this free worksheet to build a captivating 1-sentence premise for your fantasy novel.

Along with step-by-step instructions for doing this, you'll also see various examples to help you better understand how to craft a great premise.

PS: Want Jed to personally help you write a great fantasy novel? Check out his [12-week Fantasy Writing Bootcamp](#). Inside, you'll join a small community of dedicated fantasy writers and get expert 1-on-1 feedback and support to help you finish your book in just a few months.

Step 1: List the main elements of your story

Who is your main character (or main characters)?

A woman who can see the dead seeks justice for an
character goal
unsolved murder by unravelling the twisted secrets of Yale's
secret magical societies.
setting

3. Character(s) + goal

The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien:

A comfort-loving hobbit reluctantly agrees to help a wizard
character
and a group of dwarves steal treasure from a dragon.
goal

4. Character(s) + goal + stakes

Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo:

Six criminal outcasts try to break into a military stronghold
character goal
to free a hostage who could change the shape of magic
stakes
forever.

5. Character(s) + Inciting Incident

Mort (Discworld # 4) by Terry Pratchett:

An awkward teenager becomes Death's apprentice.

●—————● ●—————●

character inciting incident

6. Setting + Character(s) + Goal

A Game of Thrones by George R. R. Martin:

In the cutthroat land of Westeros, noble families compete

●—————● ●—————● ●—————●

setting characters

for control of the Iron Throne.

—————●

goal

Here's those formulas again:

- Inciting Incident + character + goal
- Character + goal + setting
- Character + goal
- Character + goal + stakes
- Character + Inciting Incident
- Setting + character + goal

Type out your premise (using these formulas) below:

Step 3: Try different versions and angles

Take a crack at your premise from lots of different angles and variations. For instance – what does a worldbuilding-focused premise look like? What does a character-focused premise look like? What does a plot-focused premise look like? The more you experiment and test, the better your final premise will become.

Write your premise variations here: