

## For Serious Plotters Only: Step-by-step plotting with Farrah Rochon

---

### Required tools:

- Poster boards
- Post-it notes
- Sharpie markers
- Ample wall space
- Your favorite craft books (including those below)
- Your imagination

### Five steps to plotting your novel:

#### Step One: *Free writing in a dedicated notebook*

Let your imagination run wild. Write until you've exhausted all you know about your story.

#### Step Two: *Deepening Characters*

Focus on getting to know who your characters are as people. Learn their backstory and personalities.

- Alicia Rasley – *The Character Interview & The Story Within Plotting Guide*  
<http://amzn.to/2mSr8Fx>
- Tami Cowden - *Complete Writer's Guide to Heroes and Heroines* (Archetypes)  
<http://amzn.to/2mSgo9X>
- Dr. Linda Edelstein - *Writer's Guide to Character Trait*  
<http://amzn.to/2nn1y7D>

#### Step Three: *“What Has to Happen & Possible Scenes”*

In this step is where you will do most of your brainstorming. The goal is to brainstorm as many scenes as possible for your story. Return to your notebook and highlight all the ideas you came up with during your initial free writing that will have to happen in the book.

- Debra Dixon - *Goal, Motivation and Conflict*  
<http://amzn.to/2oepJtd>

- Donald Maass - *Writing the Breakout Novel Workbook*  
<http://amzn.to/2oeasZd>
- Mary Buckham and Diana Love Snell - *Power Plotting*  
<http://amzn.to/2njnsYF>

### **Step Four: *Putting it all together***

The goal of this step is to take all the scenes you've brainstormed and put them into a formal story structure. This is your novel's skeleton.

- Christopher Vogler – *The Writer's Journeys* - (Based on Campbell's *The Hero's Journey*)  
<http://amzn.to/2njkkCz>
- Carolyn Green – *Prescription for Plotting* (especially the Paradigm worksheet)
- Robin Perini's - *Discovering Story Magic*  
<http://www.discoveringstorymagic.com/>

### **Step Five: *Chapter-by-Chapter Story Boarding***

This step should yield a comprehensive, chapter-by-chapter outline of your story.