

## Structure Possibilities for Writing Projects

By no means complete, this list of options is like a starter kit for experimenting with what might work for you and your writing project. This list collects structures and seeds from a variety of sources. You can use it to test what attracts you and find a way to begin getting feedback from yourself.

### **Outline format**

Nested sections used in a classic structure, with each level exploring deeper within the level above it.

### **Templates**

Clarify the repeating structure of elements and then plug information into the template to create different sections of the project that resemble each other.

### **Weaving**

Identify different threads and write each thread in a different manner (vary the format, perspective, topic, etc.). Weave them together in alternating sections.

### **Include and organize around visuals**

Create a theme or pattern with visual elements and organize content around them.

### **Extend or use a metaphor**

If an overarching metaphor is an element of your project, see if the metaphor itself suggests a structure. For example, a metaphor of a garden could suggest a structure of seasons. Or, if you don't already have a metaphor, you could consider using one.

### **Journey**

Use the metaphor of a journey. Journeys take on many forms, from transitions through time (seasons, aging, etc.) to transitions through space (road trips, neighbourhood walks, etc.) to journeys of awareness.

### **Perspective shifts**

Different viewpoints or angles can be used to designate different sections of the book, with structure arising from the view of the parts in relation and as a whole.

### **Action advice**

A project that includes different to-do elements for readers, like contemplating concepts and then putting them into action, can inform structure.

### **Scrivener writing software program**

This program offers prompted help with structure. I haven't used it, but I know of people who've written books who used it and liked it.

### **Write in a publishing program vs. a word processing program**

From the first draft, format your writing so it already looks like a book as you're writing it. Seeing format options can spark intuitive structure insights.