

Novelist's Boot Camp

Get it written—Get it done!



About your presenter

T.A. (Todd) Stone:

30 years of writing for publication

Multi-Published, multi-award winning author

Novelist's Boot Camp

Close to Home, No Place Like Home,

The Best Defense, Kriegspiel

Head Writer, **Crime Scene** (www.crimescene.com)

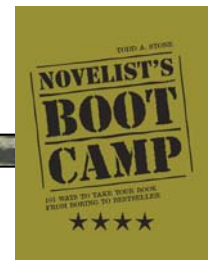
Full-time communications manager

Numerous web and magazine (*Writers Digest*) articles

Founding Board Member, **Love is Murder** dark fiction conference

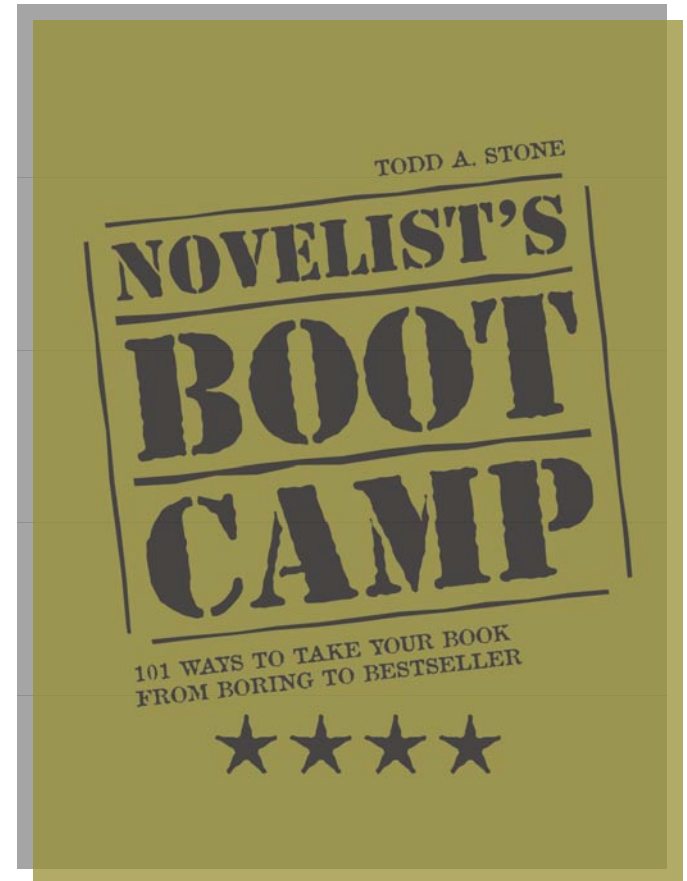
Presents at writers conferences nationwide

Former Army Airborne Ranger Infantry officer, Instructor at
USMA West Point



Highlight selected elements from the Novelist's Boot Camp Battle Plan for Writing Your Novel

Take Command of Your Novel!

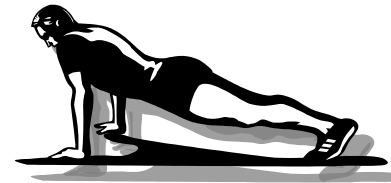


Reception Station

Battle Plan: A series of missions grouped around a phase of the writing process

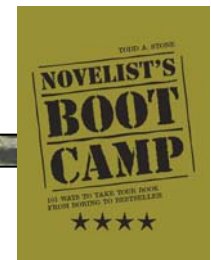
**MISSION:
WHAT YOU
WANT TO
ACCOMPLISH
IN THIS
PHASE**

Drills: X-XX
Applicable Drills from
Novelist's Boot Camp



Exercise!

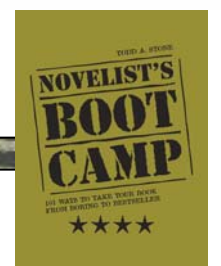
RANGER





A really, really important idea

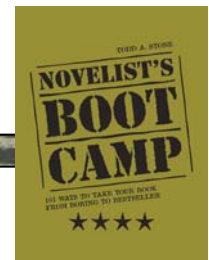
“Tools not rules”



Novelist's Boot Camp maximizes the power of the writing process

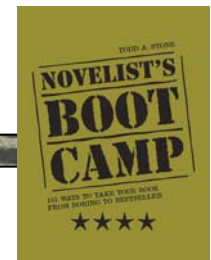
Writing a novel is a **process**, a series of steps or events that have a beginning, middle, and end.

So you don't have to "write a novel"—you just have to do the best you can wherever you are in the process!



Novelist's Boot Camp Battle Plan Phases

- 1. Battle Plan Alpha:** Mental Preparation and Mission Planning
- 2. Battle Plan Bravo:** Invention
- 3. Battle Plan Charlie:** Development
- 4. Battle Plan Delta:** Drafting
- 5. Battle Plan Echo:** Revision and Rewriting
- 6. Battle Plan Foxtrot:** Editing and Proofreading
- 7. Battle Plan Golf:** Staying Battle Ready



Battle Map for Novel Writing

Line of Contact

BATTLE PLAN BRAVO
Invention

OBJECTIVE 1
NOVELIST'S
MINDSET

OBJECTIVE 3
MASTER
STORY
SUMMARY

DRILLS #1-13

DRILLS #14-25

DRILLS #26-48

BATTLE PLAN ALPHA
Mental Preparation/
Mission Planning

BATTLE PLAN CHARLIE
Development

OBJECTIVE 2
COMPREHENSIVE
CONCEPT



Battle Map for Novel Writing

BATTLE PLAN DELTA
Drafting

BATTLE PLAN FOXTROT
Editing and Proofreading

NOTES:

OBJECTIVE 5
REVISED
DRAFT

DRILLS #96-98

**FINAL
OBJECTIVE**
COMPLETED
MANUSCRIPT

BATTLE PLAN ECHO
Revision and Rewriting

DRILLS #84-95

**FOLLOW-ON
MISSION**

BATTLE PLAN GOLF
Staying Battle Ready
DRILLS #99-101

OBJECTIVE 4
QUALITY
DRAFT

**Writer's
Block**

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CAMP



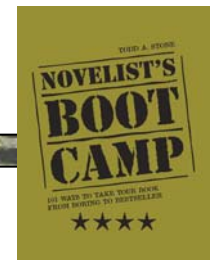
Boot camp goals

Upon completing boot camp you will better understand how to:

- ID stated and implied genre and line requirements
- Develop compelling characters
- Invent exciting story lines
- How to discipline your draft
- Beat writer's block every time
- Use a 7 stage "real-world" revision technique

Have a
Novelist's
Mindset

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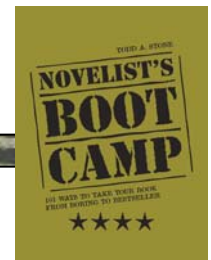
And --

Write more, better, and faster

Have **more fun** and **more confidence** doing it!

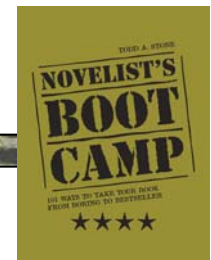


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How?

- Get the right mindset
- Learn specific high-payoff techniques (**Drills**)
- Share real-world challenges
- Practice as a team and individually
- Take home and put to use what you've learned
- Learn more with **NBC**



Battle Plan Alpha

From **Mission Planning and Mental Preparation**

**MISSION:
GET YOUR
IMAGINATION
IN
FORMATION**

**Novelist's Boot Camp
Drills: 1-13**

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Make it your mission

Dreams & wishes



Exercise!

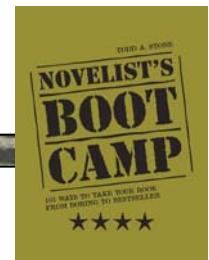
Missions

Objectives

Resources

Timelines

Commitment



The Seven smart principles

Never fight fair

Trust the process

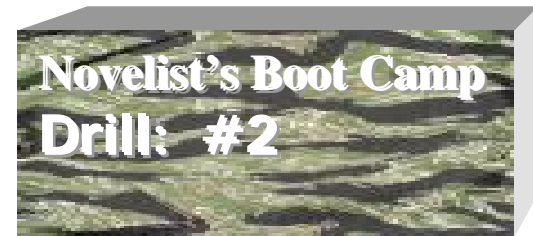
Celebrate success

Use the tools

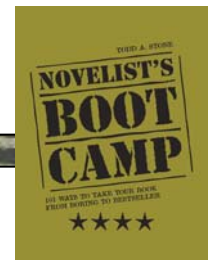
Start with a seed

Enlist your calendar

Discipline yourself first



Exercise!



Write what you must?

Write what you know?

Write what's selling?

Write what you read?

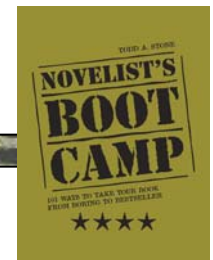
Write about an issue or idea?

Write what your best friend said to?



Exercise!

RANGER



Drill your way to success

Drills: “Step 1, step 2, step 3, step--” series of actions to get a specific result.

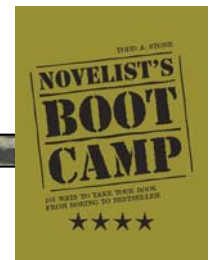
Free up creativity

Keep you moving forward

Help you get into “flow”

Discipline your internal editor

Work against distractions



Novelist's mindset



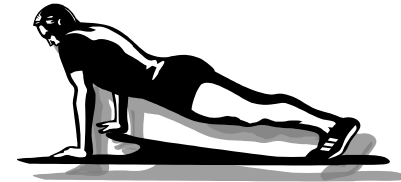
A focused way of thinking and feeling about **your** writing project

Confidence in the face of uncertainty

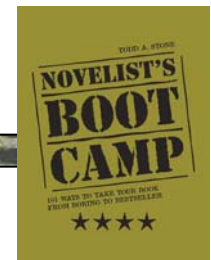
Pride in self and accomplishment

Determination to succeed

Happiness in progress



Exercise!



To review

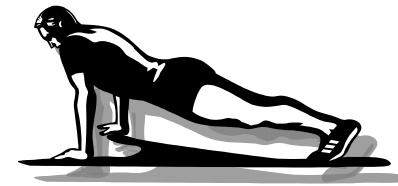
Battle Plan for writing

Smart principles for smart novelists

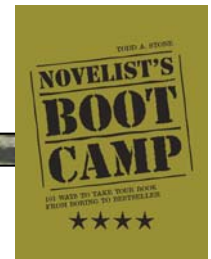
Write what you must

Leverage the power of Drills

Novelist's mindset



Exercise!

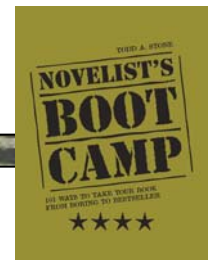


Coming up

- **ID stated and implied genre and line requirements**
- **Develop compelling characters**
- **Invent exciting story lines**
- How to discipline your draft
- Beat writer's block every time
- Use a 7 stage "real-world" revision technique

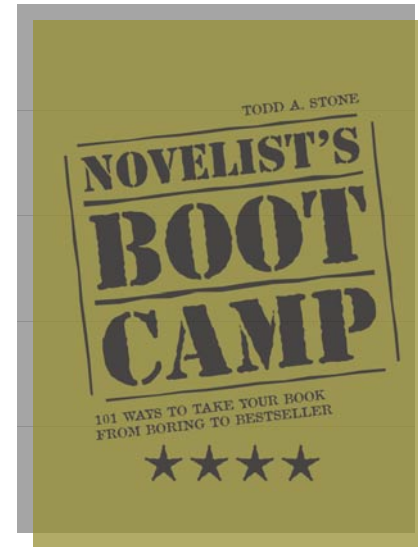
Invent your
Comprehensive
Concept!

RANGER



What are your questions?

?????



TAKE COMMAND OF YOUR NOVEL!

RANGER

