



The Finish List

Finishing becomes easier when you stop looking at your manuscript as one enormous unfinished project and identify the individual pieces that remain.

SEE WHAT YOU HAVE

What have I already completed?

List chapters, scenes, essays, sections, stories, or other pieces that already exist.

What is partially completed?

What is still missing?

Turn the unfinished manuscript into visible pieces.

WHAT'S DONE	WHAT'S MISSING	WHAT'S NEXT

Separate the work:

- NEEDS TO BE WRITTEN
- NEEDS TO BE REVISED

For this stage, “finished” can simply mean:

I have completed my manuscript from beginning to end.

Not published. Not professionally edited. Not perfectly polished. **Complete.**

Make the next step specific.

The next piece I will work on is:

I will work on it on:

For approximately:

Instead of: “Work on my book”

Try: “Draft Chapter 7.” “Write the hospital scene.” “Complete the missing ending.” “Draft the transition between Chapters 4 and 5.”

A manuscript becomes finishable when “finish my book” becomes a series of specific things you can actually do.