

WNC Mysterians Activities

- 1 Macroedit for structural issues
 - Summarize entire manuscript in one paragraph.
 - Summarize each chapter in one sentence.
 - Does it all logically follow and flow?
- 2 Germinal ideas – Where to find central ideas.
 - Newspapers
 - People we know
- 3 Protagonist – Who?
 - Murderer/Perp
 - “Author of the plot behind the plot.” – James Frey.
 - This drives the plot.
 - Motivation – work up thorough back story.
 - “Extreme of type” “Bell Curve Character.”
 - Is clever & resourceful.
 - Selfish about something. What?
 - Doesn’t appear evil.
 - Solver – amateur or pro?
 - How does he/she get involved? Must be logical.
 - Has courage, though may deny it.
 - Is skilled at his/her work, whatever it might be.
 - Has a special talent – i.e. date savant, Lawrence of Arabia fire in flame.
 - Is clever & resourceful.
 - Wounded – physically or psychologically. Reader will sympathize.
 - Outlaw – an outsider somehow.
 - Self-sacrificing – even against his own interests.
 - Loner – or with one sidekick.
 - Financially inept or broke.
 - Loyal to friends and/or lost causes.
 - Sexually attractive or potent. (Sue Grafton/Kinsey Milhone, Robert B. Parker/Spencer, Sara Paretsky/V.I. Warshawski, John D. McDonald/Travis McGhee)
 - Other Characters
 - “real” or cardboard? (StarTreck red v. blue shirts)
- 5 Crimes – What do people do?

- 6 Motives – Why do people commit crimes?