Setting a Word-Count Goal

Your word-count goal for NaNoWriMo's Young Writers Program is completely unique. You should take into account …

- ➤ your writing experience
- ➤ your schedule (how much time you'll realistically be able to spend writing)
- ➤ your enthusiasm for the event

Everybody can write a novel in a month, but you might choose to write a novella, a novelette, or short story.[1]

Below, are three recommendations options for each grade level. You might choose a low, middle, or high goal from these suggestions, use ywp.nanowrimo.org/wordcount/goal to estimate a goal unique to you, or select another word count all your own. It's all up to you!

Grade	Suggested Low Goal	Suggested Middle Goal	Suggested High Goal
Kindergarten 5–6 years	20	100	200
1st grade 6–7 years	40	150	300
2nd grade 7–8 years	100	300	500
3rd grade 8–9 years	300	500	800
4th grade 9–10 years	500	800	1,200
5th grade 10–11 years	800	1,200	2,000
6th grade 11–12 years	1,200	2,000	3,000
7th grade 12–13 years	2,000	3,000	5,000
8th grade 13–14 years	3,000	5,000	10,000
9th grade 14–15 years	5,000	10,000	17,000
10th grade 15–16 years	10,000	17,000	25,000
11th grade 16-17 years	17,000	25,000	35,000
12th grade 17–18 years	25,000	35,000	50,000

- Keep in mind that a word-count goal is a **lower threshold**, not an upper limit.

- The deadline for **changing your word-count goal** is 11:59 PM on **Thursday, November 19** — before winning starts!

- Winning starts on Friday, November 20. To officially **win NaNoWriMo**, you must validate that you've reached word count goal online at ywp.nanowrimo.org/oll/my/novel by 11:59 PM on **Monday, November 30.**

  o *Based on your account's local time —be sure to **set your time zone** at ywp.nanowrimo.org/oll/my/settings*

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[1] While novels can vary tremendously in length, a work of fiction under 7,500 words is generally classed as a short story. If you write up to 17,500 words, you can call it a novelette. If you get up to 40,000 words, it's a novella. If you get beyond that, it's a novel.