

# Writing is Like a 3-Day Loop Hike

Imagine you are planning a 3-day loop hike over a mountain pass to a lake.

(characters)

**Where are you going?** (setting)

How long will you be gone?

What time of year is it?

**What will you need to take with you?** (details)

backpacks, sleeping bag, food, clothing, boots, map, flashlight, etc

**What obstacles happen along the way?** (sequenced story problems)

As you climb, the obstacles become more and more difficult:

fallen trees

streams with no bridges or broken bridges

dangerous icy/snow-covered pass (trail invisible)

**How will your P.O.V character move through each problem?** (solutions)

Climb over the fallen log to 1st night's camp site

Walk through the stream, holding your pack high to keep it dry to keep moving up the mountain

Devise a clever plan to get beyond the snow before nightfall to find a safe place to spend night #2

Move on to your destination (climax) the mountain lake you came to see and photograph

**How will the adventure end?** (ending)

How will you take the characters back to their normal life?

**You want your reader to:**

Follow you as the story develops.

Feel your obstacles make sense (maybe try to guess what comes next).

Feel satisfied with the way you solved the problems.

Stay interested until the journey/the story ends.