FREE TO FOCUS

3 Reasons Why Scrivener will Improve your Writing and Boost your Productivity.

Minnesota Christian WRITERS GUILD

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3 Reasons Why Scrivener will Improve your Writing and Boost your Productivity.

If you've known me for any length of time, you'll find that I like trying out new products to take my writing to the next level. Like a construction worker, I need tools that will help me focus on writing. Our toolbox is filled with ideas, computers, pens, swipe files, books and more. But the one thing we all need to write is software.

When I began writing, I used Microsoft Word. In-fact, that's how I wrote my first novel. Now, there's nothing wrong with writing in Word, however it becomes cumbersome the longer your book is. If you're looking for something, it can take you several minutes to find it. In that time, you could have been writing your next chapter.

Enter Scrivener.
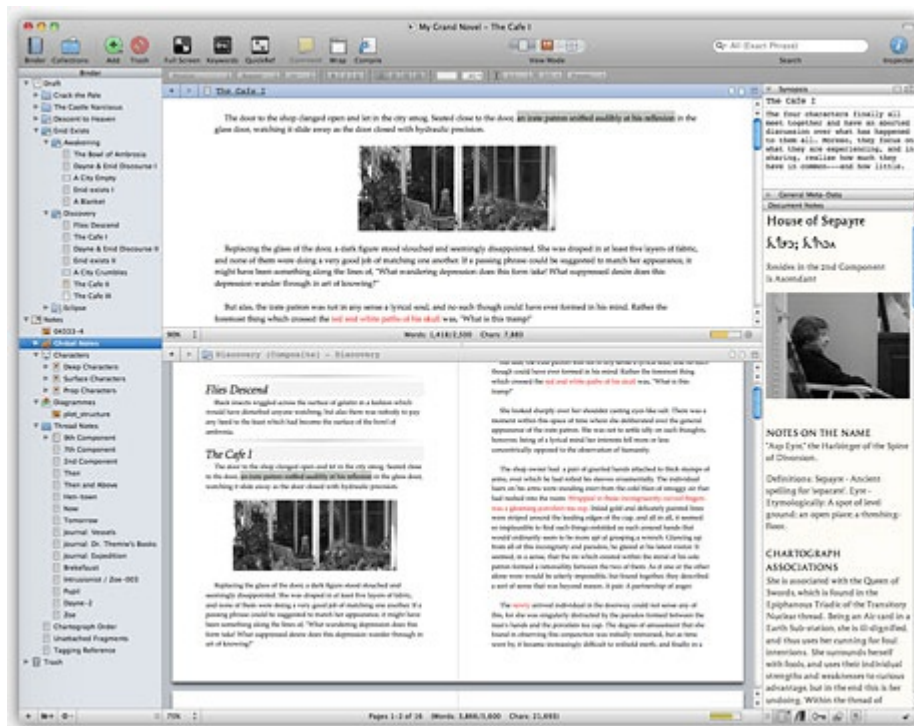
I discovered this software in 2011, the year after I wrote my first novel. It's been around for quite a while and was created by writers for writers. It doesn't matter if you're a freelancer, novelist, blogger or self-help guru, this software is designed with you in mind.

But how can Scrivener help to improve our writing and boost our productivity? 3 reasons:

Scrivener creates a stronger writing environment.

I mentioned above that I used Microsoft Word for the majority of my writing. But I found I had to scroll endlessly page after page, just to find what I was looking for. If you're writing an 80,000 page novel, good luck finding once sentence you need to fix. It's frustrating and a waste of time. And yes, I do know you can put each chapter into separate folders, but that's just as cumbersome.

This is where Scrivener comes into play. Think of a 3-ring notebook. You can separate out tabs for each area you're working on.

- Resources.
- Images.
- Character Development forms
- Chapters
- Future ideas.

Everything is segmented into separate folders, which helps keep you organized. I've met several writers who thrive on Scrivener's interface. In other words, you don't need to have several windows open for your research, chapters and scene ideas. Doing that will make a sane person go nuts.

You don't need a million files open. Scrivener narrows it down to one window, your files, chapters and folders neatly in the left column and your writing space in the center. This allows you to stay focused on writing, while being able to access your files with a click of a button.

Maybe you're writing a scene and you come up with a sub-plot for an earlier section; you simply call up that folder, insert a note and move back to what you were working on. You don't have to have every window open when you write, you can have your text on the screen, and that's it. In-fact it will block out your screen with a single sheet of paper to write on.

The goal is to help writers remain focused on their task, writing.

Scrivener allows you to be more productive by helping you write more.

There's an old adage, the more you do something, the better you become at it. That's true for a lot of things, cooking, riding a bike, training for a triathlon and it's the same for writing. Scrivener gives you the advantage to focus solely on writing. It eliminates distractions while giving you robust tools you need to focus on your next book.

Don't waste time using Microsoft Word, allow Scrivener to give you that added boost to produce more content faster. That's why I switched. I wanted a system that would allow me to focus my energy on achieving my word count and staying on course to reach my deadline.
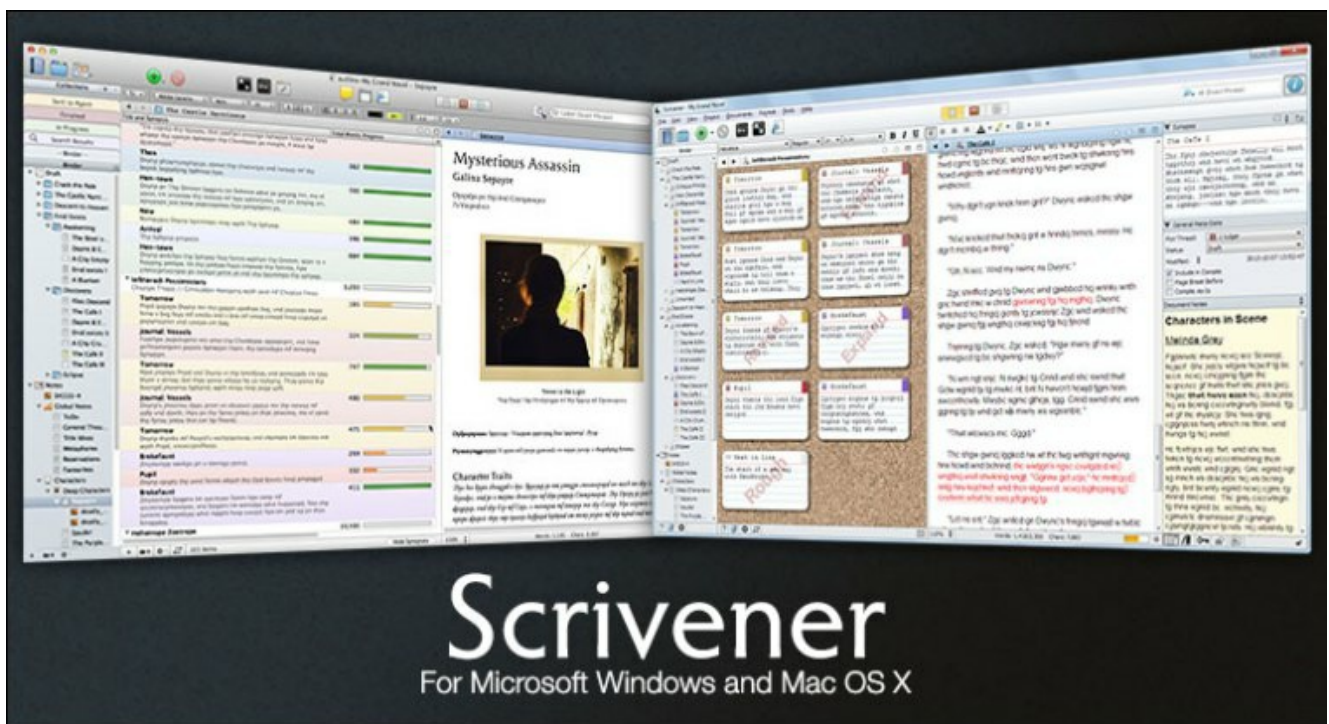
Scrivener has a feature called, "Project Targets" where you can set your own goals and dates to have certain parts written and completed. You specify a date and how many words you wish to accomplish and Scrivener helps you stay on target to meet those goals.

Scrivener allows you to easily rearrange your book.

I found while using Microsoft Word, if I wanted to move something to a different part of the book, I'd have to cut and paste. The worst part, accidentally deleting something and not being able to recover. This is why I was constantly reprinting my book. Because if I lost something, I could at least retype it.

Scrivener allows you to easily rearrange your scenes and chapters. With a click of a button, you can drag and drop scenes from one chapter folder to another. It's like having your own personal cork board to rearrange. And any book writer will tell you, needing to rearrange a story is a must. Scrivener allows you to do so quickly so you can get back writing.

Free to Focus | Jason Sisam

Because of Scrivener, I can write faster, more efficiently and can produce more content in less time. It gives you the tools you need to get more done and write that book without wading through the never ending scrolling of Word.

Here's the great news, the software is cheap and inexpensive. It's available for Mac, Windows and iOS. The price... $45. But if you didn't want to spend that now, you can try it for 30 days for free. You can buy it here.

I hope you'll enjoy Scrivener as much as I do. I know it will help you get more done, boost your productivity and improve your writing.