

Brainstorming a 'Real' World



Setting details in a real-world location are just as vital as those in a made-up world. The specifics are what make the world feel real. Here are some things to consider when picking a 'real world' for your story.

1. What specific geographical features are important to your story?

2. What specific landmarks or iconic locations play a role in your story?

3. What types of locations fit with the overall atmosphere or mood you want to create?

4. What historical events or cultural influences might shape your world?

5. What about your world helps explore the theme of your story?

6. What other type of 'world' could your story be set in?

7. My final choice story world: _____

Country or region: _____ **Time period:** _____

8. Brainstorm the societal structures of the world you've chosen.

Try and be specific to where the majority of your story takes place. If your main story world is a small town, describe local politics, religious beliefs, etc.

Social

Political

Religious

Intellectual

Technological

Economic

9. Brainstorm some notable fixtures of the world you've chosen.

What will most readers expect to see?

10. Brainstorm some *unexpected* fixtures that *could* exist in your world.

What might readers never see coming? This is one place where your file of interesting articles could be helpful.

11. What conflicts or tensions are inherent in your world?

12. How might the world impact the plot and the characters' actions?

Go back through all the previous questions and circle any specific details that stand out to you as intriguing or interesting to your plot. Brainstorm ways that some or all of those details might add tension, plot twists, or even solutions to your story problems.
