# Title of the big plot problem bugging you (put it here)

### Step 1

Now erase this line and write for a few minutes about the problem—maybe a paragraph or two.

Green: I love this idea.

Red: good idea, but creates new problems worth investigating

~~Strikethrough~~: abandon this idea.

After you’ve written about it, go ahead and list at least 5 possible solutions. Don’t just write things that make sense or come first to mind. Really brainstorm—open up and write things down that might seem silly at first.

* Solution 1
* Solution 2
* Solution 3
* Solution 4
* Solution 5

### Step 2

Now, after you’ve written 5 solutions, hit enter after each solution and indent once. And then write why each solution does AND doesn’t work.

You only need to use the writing and bullets above, but I put the examples below so you can see what I mean.

* Solution 1
  + A short paragraph/few sentences about what you like about this solution and also why you don’t think it will work (the plot problems it creates).
* Solution 2
  + Ditto.
* Solution 3
  + Etc.

### Step 3

Again, you won’t be using the following bullet lists; you’ll be using the original bullets you wrote in Step 1.

Now, hit enter after each paragraph about why the solution does or doesn’t work, and indent the bullet once. And make a list of all the reasons it doesn’t work. Like this:

* Solution 1
  + A paragraph about what you like about this solution and also why it doesn’t work.
    - Reason 1 why it doesn’t work
    - Reason 2 why it doesn’t work
* Solution 2
  + Ditto.
    - Reason 1 why it doesn’t work

### Step 4

And now, hit enter after each reason why it doesn’t work, and make a list of possible solutions for how you could get around this. Like this:

* Solution 1
  + A paragraph about what you like about this solution and also why it doesn’t work.
    - Reason 1 why it doesn’t work
      * If I did this, then maybe it could work. BUT HOW CAN I DO THIS?
      * Well this is farfetched, but maybe it could work. HOW CAN I MAKE THIS SEEM LESS FARFETCHED?
    - Reason 2 why it doesn’t work
      * Do the same for all the reasons why it doesn’t work.

At this point, you want to start marking down any NEW problems you’ve created by using ALL CAPS, or highlighting them. Then you can repeat the entire process over again, and create a list of solutions to the problems of the solutions that you really liked!

# EXAMPLE from my own work – Who is the Guardian?

The following is an example from my own work.

The problem is that I have a character, The Guardian, also known as the Galactic Librarian, who is a key character in the book, but who I don’t know much about. I’ve always thought she was an alien, but that would complicate things because it would create the need for a backstory about time-travel (I don’t want any far-fetched time travel methods like wormholes or warp drives, as much as I love them), how did she get to earth, why is she alone, etc. And the book is earth-based, so it would be more neat and tidy to simplify it to someone on earth. I want to explore what other options there are for who The Guardian is.

Green: I love this idea.

Red: creates new problems worth investigating

~~Strikethrough~~: abandon this idea.

### Who is the GUARDIAN, how old is she and where did she come from?

* ~~I’ve always wondered if the Galactic Librarian wasn’t Alice.~~
  + ~~This is really cool, but that would make her hundreds of years old. How would that be possible?~~
    - ~~She is too old: Perhaps there is some kind of medication that makes it possible for her to still be alive?~~ 
      * ~~But if she’s still alive, then why would Imorah need to talk to Shalon in the past? Doesn’t make any sense, and seems to add more problems than solutions to problems. So let’s skip that idea. NO DOESN’T WORK.~~
* The Guardian species is human, but created by aliens through telepathic manipulation of DNA
  + I’ve recently been playing with the idea that the aliens are actually human and do not have ‘alien’ DNA in the traditional sense—that they procreate or create themselves through inserting information in the dreams of scientists and people who are alive. It takes a really long time.
* The Guardian species is alien and travels in a seed ship.
  + I’ve lately had this idea that there was a ‘seed’ ship, which could be really a cool idea and I think it would fit. The seed ship travels through space with nothing alive in it, but when it lands it can accelerate the process of creating a living being, and eventually create a Galactic Librarian. YES. I LIKE THIS. So who is she?
    - The Guardian is created by The Family
    - Maybe she’s a test-tube baby. You know, she was raised by a group of scientists (who? THE FAMILY, WHICH IS A GROUP OF SCIENTISTS) to become the Guardian. But why wouldn’t they just raise another test-tube baby? THEY DO. THE GUARDIAN IS THE FIRST, BUT THEY ARE TRYING TO GET MORE.
      * ~~Maybe they lose the ability to create her like that? But why?~~
      * ~~Maybe there is something wrong with the Guardian that makes them think that the test-tube baby route isn’t the best way.~~
    - Maybe she’s just like Liorah. She is a member of the Family, raised by the Family to become the Guardian. I LIKE THIS. YES. SHE IS a member of the family.