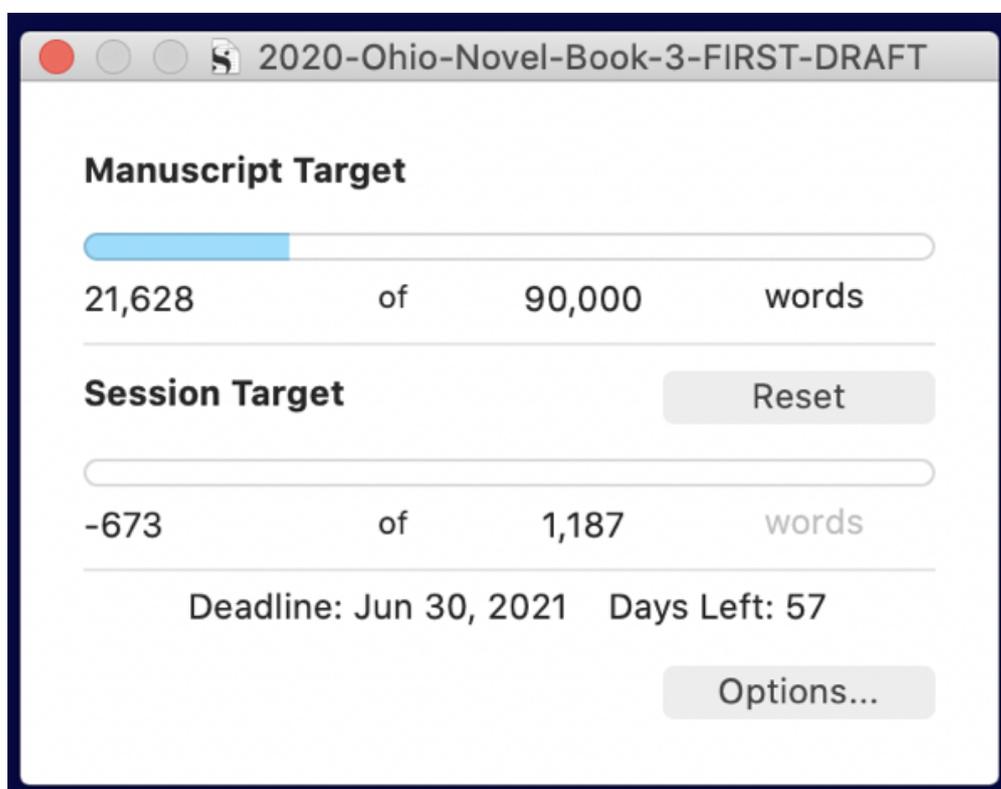


Redundant redundancies and a better direction lead to a BIG negative word-count

By Holly Lisle

Yesterday I finished with 22,297 words.

Today I started in a bit before 8 AM, full of coffee and certainty that I knew where I'd be going.



First cut in word count

I picked up exactly where I left off, and adding to yesterday's scene – and then, hitting a chunk of older material that was wrong – I pulled out 673 words.

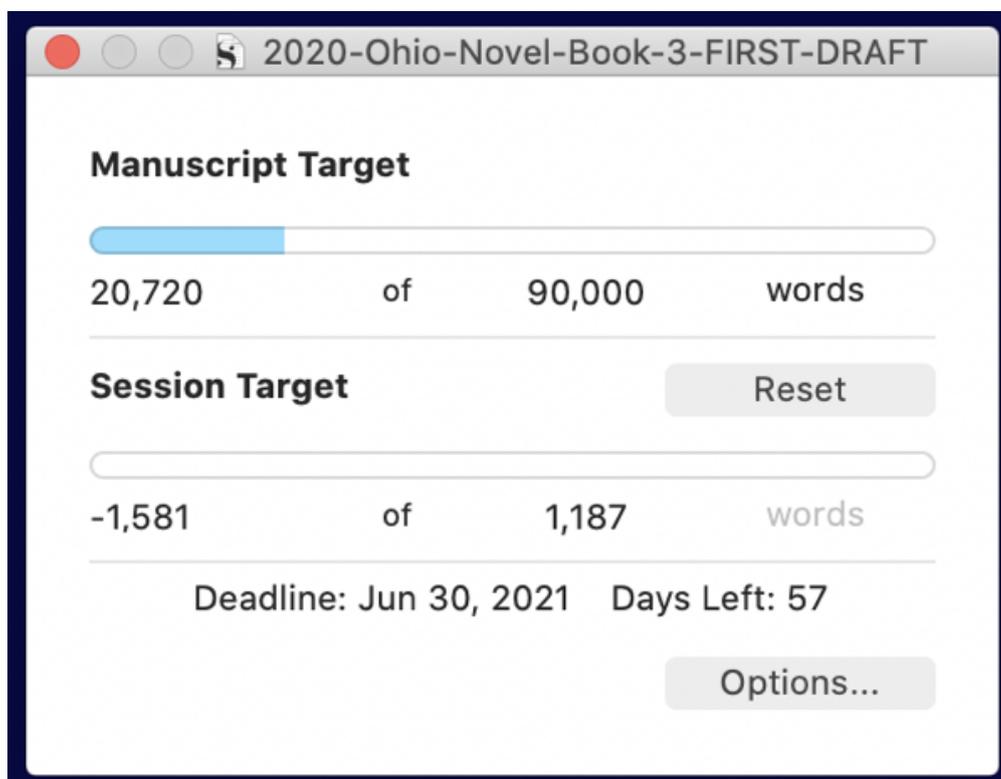
Fine. It happens.

I was still working through the problem scene... and I thought I

was near the end of it...

And then I hit a big chunk of text that was older, set off as a separate scene from a different POV, that I'd forgotten I put in there.

It had to have been some of the words I got last week, before I discovered the current path and why it's better. That POV and its entire contents were wrong for the direction I've decided to take.



Second cut in word count

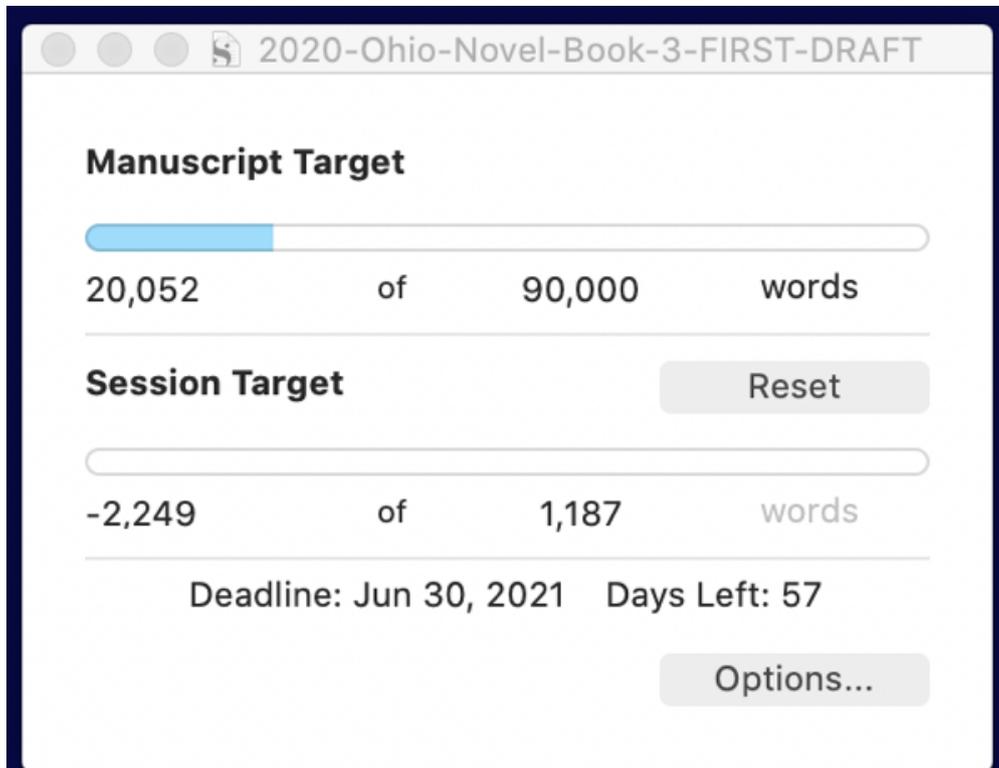
So I cut all 1581 words of that. Big sigh here, but this is a novel, and it's the middle book of the series, and a lot of pieces I'm pulling in from the first and second books at this point have to mesh.

So I removed what was more than a day's planned words... and I kept writing.

I made great progress. I love what I got today, but no sooner had I finished the scene and started reading the stuff that

followed than I discovered a third chunk of text that does not at ALL fit the new, better, much more compelling conflict that I found yesterday.

And this one really hurt. I cut out 2,249 words.



Third cut in word count

I still wrote more, but after three hours and change, I'm still buried deep in negative numbers, and at this point I have to walk away to do the other stuff I have to deal with on Tuesdays.

So I end with a count of -1319, and I know that I got a lot of words, and I know I like what I finally ended up with... But DAMN.

I'm sort of dreading tomorrow.

Contents © Holly Lisle. <https://hollylisle.com> All Rights Reserved