

Story outline questionnaire

Answer the ten questions to establish whether your story works. Then, create a one sentence précis of the story you want to tell.

Whose story is this?

What does he or she need?

What is the inciting incident?

What does the protagonist want specifically?

What obstacles are in the way?

What's at stake?

Why should we care?

What does the protagonist learn?

How and why does he/she learn this?

How does the story end?

Sum up your story in one sentence.

Film Story Plan

One sentence précis:

Aim of the film:

Protagonist:

Want:

Need:

Act 1: Status quo, no knowledge.

Establish the protagonist and their life as it is or more often as it was. Seek to establish empathy and reference the need or flaw.

Act 2: Inciting Incident, something happens changing protagonist's life

Identify the something that happens to the protagonist. It should aim to blow them out of their comfort zone set up in Act 1 and establish what they want to achieve.

Act 3: The journey to getting the want and realising the need.

Obstacles should litter the path of the protagonist, as we discover how they are achieving their want. It should also establish how they are addressing what they need.

Act 4: Crisis point, doubt.

This is the biggest obstacle our protagonist must overcome. Whatever they're seeking to achieve, something is stopping them and getting in their way.

Act 5: Reawakening, mastery, achieves want or need, sometimes both.

Triumph. Our protagonist won the final battle overcoming the crisis point. Reference their victory here.