

Story Outline

Plan the shape of a story from hook to final image.

1 of 2

WORKING TITLE

GENRE

TARGET LENGTH

LOGLINE one or two sentences: who wants what, and what stands in the way

PREMISE the 'what if...?' behind the story

Core

PROTAGONIST

ANTAGONIST OR MAIN OBSTACLE

WHAT THEY WANT

WHAT THEY NEED

STAKES what is lost if they fail?

SETTING

POINT OF VIEW AND TENSE

THEME the question the story explores

Story Outline

Structure: the beats in order.

2 of 2

OPENING IMAGE OR HOOK

INCITING INCIDENT

RISING ACTION

MIDPOINT TURN

CRISIS OR DARKEST MOMENT

CLIMAX

RESOLUTION

CLOSING IMAGE

NOTES

World-Building

Build the world your story lives in.

1 of 2

WORLD OR SETTING NAME

ERA OR TECH LEVEL

ONE-LINE SUMMARY

Place

GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

Key locations

LOCATION	WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE	WHY IT MATTERS TO THE STORY

Senses

SIGHTS

SOUNDS

SMELLS AND TEXTURES

Society and culture

WHO HOLDS POWER

ECONOMY AND WORK

BELIEFS AND RELIGION

CUSTOMS AND TABOOS

HISTORY: KEY EVENTS THAT SHAPED THE PRESENT

Rules

MAGIC, TECHNOLOGY OR SPECIAL RULES

LIMITS

COSTS

LANGUAGE, NAMES AND SLANG

OPEN QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS WORLD

Timeline

Track what happens when, in story order or in world order.

1 of 2

PROJECT

TIMELINE OF

CALENDAR OR UNITS

Timeline

Track what happens when, in story order or in world order.

2 of 2

Characters

Cast list: everyone in the story at a glance.

1 of 3

PROJECT

POINT-OF-VIEW CHARACTER(S)

Characters

Character profile: one sheet per major character.

2 of 3

NAME

ROLE IN STORY

AGE

APPEARANCE

VOICE: HOW THEY TALK favorite words, rhythm, what they never say

WANT

NEED

GHOST: THE PAST EVENT THAT HAUNTS THEM

WOUND: THE DAMAGE IT LEFT

LIE THEY BELIEVE

TRUTH THEY NEED TO LEARN

STRENGTHS

FLAWS

SECRET

Characters

Character profile, continued: relationships and arc.

Relationships

CHARACTER	RELATIONSHIP	WHAT EACH WANTS	TENSION

Arc

WHO THEY ARE AT THE START

WHAT CHANGES THEM

WHO THEY ARE AT THE END

NOTES

Decisions & Open Items

Record what you've decided and what's still unsolved.

1 of 2

PROJECT

STARTED

Decision log: choices you've made, and why, so you don't relitigate them later.

Decisions & Open Items

Open questions, plot holes and things to research.

#	OPEN ITEM	PRIORITY	RAISED	RESOLUTION	DONE
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Keep a record of every revision.

1 of 2

Change Log

Keep a record of every revision.

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