

Story Structure Template

Use the prompts to outline your own film. Add or remove sections to suit your project. The worked example follows the blank worksheet.

Project _____ Writer _____

Character and goal

Who drives the story, and what do they want?

Disruption

What makes the current situation impossible to ignore?

Escalation

How do earlier choices create harder problems?

Decisive action

What action brings the central conflict to a head?

Changed situation

What has changed, and how does the ending answer the opening?

Worked film example

Jurassic Park (1993)

Original Cineview planning framework. Film mapping is Cineview's interpretation; spoilers follow.

Character and goal Grant and Sattler visit Hammond's dinosaur park.

Disruption The park's systems fail during the storm.

Escalation Separated visitors must survive escaped dinosaurs.

Decisive action The group reunites and tries to escape the raptors.

Changed situation The survivors leave the island; control has proved fragile.

How to use the worksheet

Define one central question. Write a question the audience can understand, such as whether the character can achieve a goal or repair a relationship.

Connect decisions to consequences. Give each major event a cause. A character's action, a resistance or a discovery should change what they do next.

Test the ending. Read the opening and ending together. Check what changed and whether you prepared the audience for that outcome.

References

StudioBinder — Three act structure and Jurassic Park
<https://www.studiobinder.com/blog/three-act-structure/>

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