



AutoCrit Story Structure Worksheet



Beginning

Introduce your main character(s) and their current status quo in life.

Have an interesting hook to begin – either related to the core plot (what’s to come), or your main character.

**What Happens?/
Character Beats/Plot Points**

Conflict within the Scene

Inciting Incident/Call to Adventure

The big event that propels your main character into the plot – often the first time the worlds of the protagonist and antagonist collide.

Your main character is faced with a dilemma – option A or option B, neither of which are wholly satisfactory. Both come with a negative result, but your protagonist is going to have to choose.

**What Happens?
Character Beats/Plot Points**

Conflict within the Scene



■ Refusal of the Call

Does your main character attempt to walk away from the situation, or avoid responsibility? What happens that forces them to stay involved?

**What Happens?/
Character Beats/Plot Points**

Conflict within the Scene

■ Act 1 Climax/Transition to Act 2

Your protagonist is now firmly involved in the primary plot events, and starts to move forward in their search for a solution to the Big Problem/Great Threat.

**What Happens?/
Character Beats/Plot Points**

Conflict within the Scene



■ **Obstacle Encountered**

What happens to add more conflict to the story and raise the stakes?

**What Happens?/
Character Beats/Plot Points**

Conflict within the Scene

■ **Obstacle Encountered - Escalation**

With previous obstacles overcome, another is on the way – and the stakes are getting higher. The price of failure becomes more grave.

**What Happens?/
Character Beats/Plot Points**

Conflict within the Scene



Midpoint

An event that reinforces the story's theme and makes attaining the goal absolutely essential to the main character.

Would you like to introduce a twist?

**What Happens?/
Character Beats/Plot Points**

Conflict within the Scene

Obstacle Encountered - Escalation

The stakes continue to rise as more extreme obstacles present themselves.

This could be related to the twist, if you added one.

**What Happens?/
Character Beats/Plot Points**

Conflict within the Scene



Disaster/Crisis/All Hope is Lost

Your protagonist(s) thought they had the solution... but their attempt to defeat the antagonist fails. They lose hope, finding themselves in the pit of despair and ready to accept defeat.

What Happens?/
Character Beats/Plot Points

Conflict within the Scene

Climax

Something causes your character(s) to rally back into the fight.

The final confrontation takes place. What happens, and is your protagonist victorious?

What Happens?/
Character Beats/Plot Points

Conflict within the Scene



Resolution/Aftermath

Show how things have changed in the wake of the climactic confrontation.

After all your characters have been through, the world looks different. This can be literally, or simply through their eyes – their mindset has changed from what it was in the beginning. Life will never be the same.

**What Happens?/
Character Beats/Plot Points**

Denouement

Bring everything to a close with a light reinforcement of theme.

**What Happens?/
Character Beats/Plot Points**

