

Exposition:

Thank you, Mason, for the exposition; to this incredible story, and great morning to all of you—I am Keanan Anderson, your Undergraduate Student Body President. Today marks yet another page in your ever-growing book of life. Now I know this to be cliché—reciting a metaphor about how life is a book and “what will your story be”. But I don’t think anyone filed a copyright claim, so I think we’re good.

Rising Action:

Now that you have chosen DU many chapters are waiting to be written, many awaiting your rise to take action. In these coming years, it is up to you to fill these empty spaces with stories you can reflect upon—some bad, but hopefully most of them put a smile on your face. Here at DU the opportunities to take control of who you are, who you want to be are abundant. Whether you get involved with academics, affinity organizations, Sorority and Fraternity life, special interests, student orgs, or student government like I did—the choices are yours.

Climax / peak / pinnacle / apex:

All of these choices lead to the most exciting part, not the intros, nor the rising actions, but the climaxes of each one of your stories. This may give you a sense of urgency, excitement, or even anxiety, but I want you to take a deep breath and remind yourself of this: no matter the event, good or bad, no matter the outcome, success or fail, no matter what happens, it’s good for the plot.

Falling Action:

Frankly, stories aren't interesting without failure, without a moment where you question whether the main character can even succeed or push through. As you continue in this role of your own main character it is important to take note of the pages you've written, re-read the story you are telling about yourself. What's the character development looking like, what are the plot points, is any of what you have written foreshadowing what is to come?

Resolution:

Now that you have reflected, looking back, are you proud? Have you grown as a person, have you learned from your mistakes, have you leveraged your successes? Are you what and who you want to become? And even through the tough times, the gloomy days, the sitting through an onslaught of speeches, events, orientations, and icebreakers, remember this—it's good for the plot. Because you'll be reading plenty of boring biographies in the coming years, don't let yours be the same. Thank you.