

Below are precise, P1-style instructions for preparing **config/beats.yml**. This file defines the pacing and guardrails of the stepwriter (hook→setup→development→turn→reveal→settle). Engineers validate it and the generator uses it to aim expectation at each beat.

Purpose

Standardize the 6-beat micro-scene so outputs are short, coherent, and contain a single “explosion/turn.” The config provides per-beat goals, length limits, expectation targets, and soft constraints the composer must respect.

What to Prepare (Creator-Curated)

1) **Beat list (6 items)**: names, order, short goals (≤ 120 chars). 2) **Length bounds** per beat: `min_chars`, `max_chars` (hard caps; generator trims if over). 3) **Expectation targets (0..1)**: desired cumulative curve value at the end of each beat. 4) **Constraints** per beat: - `allow_schemas`, `disallow_schemas` - `allow_metaphors`, `disallow_metaphors` - `max_new_metaphors`: 0 for final beats - optional `must_tokens`, `ban_tokens` (lemmas) - `viewpoint_bias` (soft nudge): `{person, tense, distance}` - `attention_ops`: e.g., `center_shift: up|down|hold` 5) **Global constraints**: default explosion beat, total length limits, strict order, max beats to emit.

Validation Rules

- Header includes `version` string.
 - Exactly 6 beats with unique `order` 1..6 and canonical names: `hook`, `setup`, `development`, `turn`, `reveal`, `settle`.
 - `min_chars \leq max_chars`; all ranges sensible (20–200 typical).
 - `expectation_target` is non-decreasing across beats and ends at **1.0**.
 - Cross-refs exist for all schema/metaphor IDs used in allow/disallow lists.
 - Final beat `settle` must have `max_new_metaphors: 0`.
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Minimal YAML Template

```
version: "0.1.0"

globals:
  explosion_default_beat: 4          # normally the "turn"
  total_max_chars: 700              # hard cap for compose_final
```

```

total_max_lines: 8
enforce_order: true
allow_skips: false          # if true, composer may drop non-critical
beats

beats:
- name: hook
  order: 1
  goal: "establish a concrete image and implicit tension"
  min_chars: 40
  max_chars: 140
  expectation_target: 0.20
  constraints:
    allow_schemas: [container, path]
    disallow_schemas: []
    allow_metaphors: []
    disallow_metaphors: []
    max_new_metaphors: 1
    viewpoint_bias: { person: "3rd", tense: "present", distance: "close" }
    attention_ops: { center_shift: "up" }

- name: setup
  order: 2
  goal: "clarify space/roles; surface axis if bipolar"
  min_chars: 40
  max_chars: 160
  expectation_target: 0.40
  constraints:
    allow_schemas: [path, boundary, center_periphery]
    disallow_metaphors: []
    max_new_metaphors: 1
    viewpoint_bias: { distance: "medium" }

- name: development
  order: 3
  goal: "intensify pressure or progress; shift attention"
  min_chars: 40
  max_chars: 160
  expectation_target: 0.60
  constraints:
    allow_schemas: [force_dynamics, balance]
    allow_metaphors: [life_is_travel]
    max_new_metaphors: 1
    attention_ops: { center_shift: "down" }

- name: turn
  order: 4

```

```

goal: "semantic explosion: reveal counter-pole or hidden cause"
min_chars: 30
max_chars: 140
expectation_target: 0.85
constraints:
  allow_metaphors: [raw_cooked, light_dark]
  disallow_schemas: []
  max_new_metaphors: 1
  must_tokens: []
  ban_tokens: []

- name: reveal
  order: 5
  goal: "stabilize meaning with one precise detail"
  min_chars: 30
  max_chars: 120
  expectation_target: 0.90
  constraints:
    allow_schemas: [balance, surface]
    max_new_metaphors: 0
    disallow_metaphors: []

- name: settle
  order: 6
  goal: "leave a quiet after-image; no new metaphors"
  min_chars: 20
  max_chars: 100
  expectation_target: 1.00
  constraints:
    allow_schemas: [center_periphery, boundary]
    max_new_metaphors: 0
    disallow_metaphors: [raw_cooked, light_dark]

```

Sheet Columns (Optional) → YAML

If curating in a spreadsheet, use one row per beat:

name,order,goal,min_chars,max_chars,expectation_target,allow_schemas,disallow_schemas,allow_metap

- JSON column example: {"center_shift": "up"}.

Curation Workflow

1) Draft the 6 goals & ranges; keep them short and literal. 2) Ensure expectation targets rise monotonically (end at 1.0). 3) Add constraints consistent with your Bible (schemas/metaphors must exist). 4) Sanity-check length bounds by writing 1–2 trial lines per beat. 5) Hand to engineering; they will validate and wire the curve. 6) Commit with `config(beats): seed v0.1`.

Quality Checklist (Before Handoff)

- [] 6 unique beats with orders 1..6.
 - [] Ranges are realistic; `settle` blocks new metaphors.
 - [] Cross-refs valid (schemas/metaphors exist).
 - [] Globals set (`explosion_default_beat`, `total caps`, `order policy`).
 - [] Language matches world tone (avoid instruction words in goals).
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Notes to Engineering

- Validator: check order, monotonic expectation, ranges, cross-refs, and caps.
- Composer: at each beat, aim for `expectation_target` using your curve; enforce `max_new_metaphors` and token bans.
- Evaluator: compare achieved expectation at the `turn` with the configured target for timing scores.