

Map your events to plot points in the three act structure. This is a tool not a rule. Three act structure is a wet cardboard box. It is a maleable form, but the audience still looks for some kind of box.

THREE ACT STRUCTURE PLOT POINT MAPPING WORKSHEET

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points in the three act structure. This is a tool not a rule. Three act structure is a wet cardboard box. It is a maleable form, but the audience still looks for some kind of box.

The diagram illustrates the three-act structure of a story, organized into four columns representing acts. The first column is labeled 'ACT 1' and contains five plot functions: 'Expose the "normal"', 'Inciting incident creates a problem', 'Search for a protagonist', 'Position protagonist to dramatic problem', and 'Protagonist defined by an action plan to super objective'. The second column is labeled 'ACT 2, Part 1' and contains four plot functions: 'Protagonist takes action to objective', 'Protagonist success', 'Protagonist failure', and 'Protagonist success'. The third column is labeled 'ACT 2, Part 2' and contains four plot functions: 'Protagonist failure leads to Midpoint Crisis', 'Protagonist redefined by new action plan to super objective', 'Protagonist success', 'Protagonist failure', and 'Protagonist Success exposes vulnerability'. The fourth column is labeled 'ACT 3' and contains five plot functions: 'Expose antagonist's action plan', 'Antagonist success / Protagonist failure', 'Antagonist failure / Protagonist success', 'Final showdown', and 'Reveal new order / Repair old order'. Below the plot functions, there are four rows of story events, each corresponding to an act. The first row is labeled 'ACT 1' and contains five story events: 'Protagonist is introduced', 'Protagonist is introduced to the world', 'Protagonist is introduced to the problem', 'Protagonist is introduced to the antagonist', and 'Protagonist is introduced to the goal'. The second row is labeled 'ACT 2, Part 1' and contains four story events: 'Protagonist takes action to objective', 'Protagonist success', 'Protagonist failure', and 'Protagonist success'. The third row is labeled 'ACT 2, Part 2' and contains four story events: 'Protagonist failure leads to Midpoint Crisis', 'Protagonist redefined by new action plan to super objective', 'Protagonist success', 'Protagonist failure', and 'Protagonist Success exposes vulnerability'. The fourth row is labeled 'ACT 3' and contains five story events: 'Expose antagonist's action plan', 'Antagonist success / Protagonist failure', 'Antagonist failure / Protagonist success', 'Final showdown', and 'Reveal new order / Repair old order'. The diagram is titled 'Plot Functions' and 'Story Events'.

Plot Functions	ACT 1	ACT 2, Part 1	ACT 2, Part 2	ACT 3
Expose the "normal"				
Inciting incident creates a problem				
Search for a protagonist				
Position protagonist to dramatic problem				
Protagonist defined by an action plan to super objective				
Protagonist takes action to objective				
Protagonist success				
Protagonist failure				
Protagonist success				
Protagonist failure leads to Midpoint Crisis				
Protagonist redefined by new action plan to super objective				
Protagonist success				
Protagonist failure				
Protagonist Success exposes vulnerability				
Expose antagonist's action plan				
Antagonist success / Protagonist failure				
Antagonist failure / Protagonist success				
Final showdown				
Reveal new order / Repair old order				
Thematic surfacing				

Story Events

ACT 1

ACT 2, Part 1

ACT 2, Part 2

ACT 3

Title:

Name:

Instructions: Write the event in the blank lines above that serve the function. A scene can span across multiple plot points. One plot point can take multiple scenes. It's also possible that the audience will imagine plot points inferred by events imagined and not show.