

# TURN YOUR MESSY STORY IDEA INTO AN OUTLINE

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## PHASE #1: THE PREMISE

*what's the basic idea?*

## PHASE #2: MEET YOUR PROTAGONIST

**WHAT IS THEIR DESIRE?**

*(the thing they want + think will make them happy)*

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**WHAT IS THEIR FEAR?**

*(the thing stopping them from going after the thing that will make them happy)*

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**WHAT IS THEIR MISBELIEF?**

*(the thing they mistakenly believe is true about the world, which feeds off their fear)*

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# PHASE #3: THE 3-ACT STRUCTURE

*bullet point outline your story beats*

## ACT 1:

### THE HOOK:

*grab readers with the inner conflict of Protagonist*

### SETUP

*something is about to happen to Protagonist, reader can feel it*

### INCITING INCIDENT

*something throws Protagonist outside their comfort zone*

### BUILD-UP

*Protagonist is going to have to face this thing head on*

### 1ST PLOT POINT

*Protagonist makes a decision that determines what happens next*

### 1ST PINCH POINT

*the opposition/antagonistic force looms in the distance*

## ACT 2:

### PRE-MIDPOINT REACTIONARY HERO:

*Protagonist is in pursuit of their goal, but something is going to stand in their way*

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### MIDPOINT:

*plot twist! everything changes*

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### POST-MIDPOINT ACTION HERO:

*thanks to the game-changing midpoint, Protagonist has to switch gears when it comes to their goal*

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### 2ND PINCH POINT:

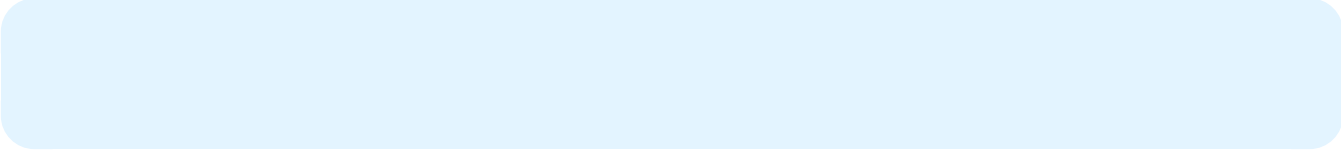
*Antagonist gets closer to disrupting Protagonist's life*

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## ACT 3:

### **SUPPOSED VICTORY:**

*Protagonist feels confident they will be victorious...little do they know, disaster is on the way*




### **DISASTER:**

*something (or everything) goes wrong. reader saw it coming, Protagonist did not.*



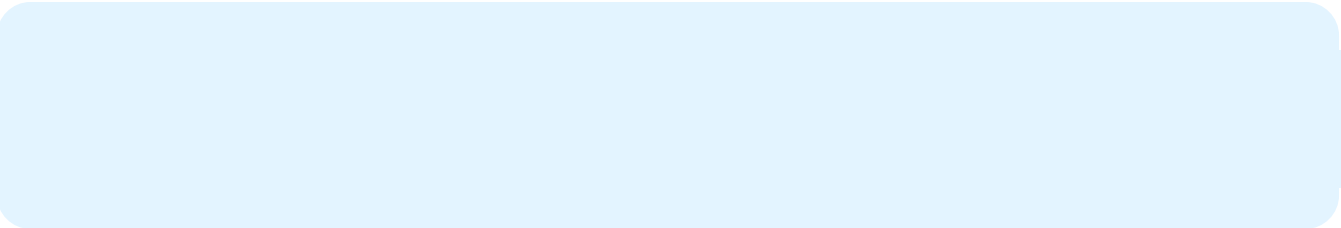
### **DARK MOMENT:**

*Protagonist feels lost and hopeless in wake of the disaster (their fear challenges them again)*



### **RECOVERY:**

*Protagonist must overcome their false beliefs to continue to the climax, thus developing as a character*



## ACT 3:

### **CLIMACTIC CONFRONTATION:**

*Protagonist faces their biggest challenge of all*

### **VICTORY:**

*Protagonist overcomes!*

### **RESOLUTION/END:**

*loose ends are wrapped up, reader is satisfied.*