* Know the point before writing
  + Everything in the story must be put there for a purpose
  + Know this before writing
* Protagonist’s inner issue
* Theme
  + Commentary on human nature
  + Theme -> tone -> mood
  + Ex. Romanic comedy -> Love can save the day and probably will
* Protagonist’s inner issue
  + Problem that the protagonist must deal with
* Plot
  + Series of events which force the protagonist to deal with their inner issue

1. What is your story’s point?
2. What is your story’s theme?
3. Do the protagonist’s inner issue, the theme, and the plot work together to answer the story problem?
4. Can you sum up what your story is about in a short paragraph?

***Example:***

*Valerie has spent her entire life as a cyclist, riding her bike back and forth across country, raising money for the causes she believes in. Then she gets caught in a flash flood in a small Midwestern town and loses her bike, her backpack, everything. Because she has no money, she has to get a job to save up enough for a new bike. While there, she falls in love with a local cop and they have a great time for about six months, until she has enough money to buy the bike she’s always dreamed of and she hits the road again.*

My Response:

Point: Sometimes love needs to be ignored for the sake of ambition/ duty/ destiny (love can be toxic if you let it?)

Theme: My story is about how sometimes love needs to be ignored and overlooked if it stands in the way of our destiny or outright pulls us away from everything that we have worked for. Love alone can’t always save the day. Reality must be attended to.

Inner issue: Valerie is die-hard anti-romantic who doesn’t believe that romantic love is a viable option for her and sees it as nothing more than a distraction.

“Tell me, do you believe in love, Ms. Claremont?”

“Valerie.”

“Okay Valerie. Do you believe in love? True love.”

“I’d like to”

“What’s the problem?”

“It’s a distraction. Something that pulls us away from the important things, away from our destiny.”

“I don’t think love that can’t be included in your destiny. Everybody has got that one person that’s made just for them. It’s just a matter of finding them. Have you ever been in love? I mean romantically that is.”

“Yes”

* To make yourself into the kind of person who does this, you have to be single-minded – sometimes to point of being utterly selfish and exclusionary.
* To be the kind of person who would do this, you have be single-minded. Sometimes in a way which is utterly selfish and utterly exclusive.