

Synopsis planning sheet

Title: _____
Writer: _____

Format and length: _____ Genre: _____

Logline

One sentence, ending held back. It is for you, and not part of the synopsis unless someone asks for it.

The one-paragraph version

Two to four sentences: who it is about, their problem, what they do, and how it ends.

THE STORY IN EIGHT STAGES

1. The opening

Who the story is about, where and when it happens, and what is wrong in their life before anything changes.

2. The event that starts it

Something happens that they can't ignore.

3. The choice

What they decide to do about it, and what they want from then on.

4. The complications

What stands in their way, including the other main characters and what each wants. The two or three that change the story most.

5. The turn in the middle

A discovery, a reversal or a raised stake, after which the story can't go back.

6. The lowest point

What the protagonist loses or learns that makes the old way of living impossible.

7. The climax

The last confrontation or decision, told plainly.

8. The ending

What happens, and how the protagonist has changed.

BEFORE IT GOES OUT

☐ Present tense, third person.

☐ The ending is in.

☐ One page, about 500 words, single-spaced.

☐ Names in capitals the first time, with an age or a role.

☐ No quoted dialogue.

TITLE

A synopsis by Your Name

your@email.com · your phone number

Format and length, for example: a feature film, 105 pages

Logline (optional)

About 500 words, in the present tense, with a paragraph for each stretch of the story.