

Story Structure Template

Dealing with an Imperfect Situation

A fill-in-the-blank template that guides users through the process of creating a compelling narrative with a clear beginning, middle, and end. This would be particularly helpful for those new to storytelling.

The Inciting Incident	
Something happens, often before the story begins, which if it does not occur would prevent the story as it exists from coming to be.	
The Imperfect Situation	
The speaker begins the story in a less than ideal situation he would like to change but seemingly cannot.	
Initial Desire	
Deep within himself/herself the speaker wants one particular thing more than anything else in the world.	
Initial Desire Type	
The speaker's Initial Desire is either for or against changing his situation.	
Pre-Existing Conflict	

<p>When the story begins, the speaker is already dealing with personal conflicts as well as the conflicts of the world at large.</p>	
<p>Likability/Empathy Factors</p>	
<p>The speaker is shown to be someone the audience would like to see succeed, or would be willing to follow on the journey of the story.</p>	
<p>Initial Goal</p>	
<p>When the story opens, the speaker already has a goal he is actively pursuing.</p>	
<p>Initial Goal Type</p>	
<p>The speaker's Initial Goal is either a Normal Routine Goal where he is in his regular environment, or a Fish out of Water Goal where he is already in a situation with which he is unfamiliar.</p>	
<p>Action Toward Goal</p>	
<p>The speaker takes action toward achieving his Initial Goal.</p>	
<p>Oppressive Opposition</p>	
<p>The speaker's Initial Desire and/or his Initial Goal are being oppressed by the world around him.</p>	
<p>Turning Point Catalyst: The Disturbance</p>	
<p>An unexpected event with ominous implications occurs, interrupting the</p>	

<p>speaker's normal routine. This event pushes the character toward the Dilemma.</p>	
<p>Turning Point One: The Dilemma</p>	
<p>The speaker is placed in a position where he must choose between life as he has known it or taking a new course of action.</p>	
<p>The New Role</p>	
<p>The speaker takes this new course of action, he will assume a New Role in which he is untested.</p>	
<p>Accepting The New Role</p>	
<p>The speaker makes the decision to take action by accepting the New Role.</p>	
<p>The speaker now finds himself/herself in a situation unlike anything he or she ever experienced.</p>	