

Five Parts of a Plot

Most movie scripts are fewer than 130 pages. That translates into approximately an hour and a half of screen time. If you're telling your story in a 12-minute film, write a 12-page script! You might want to pace it like this.

1

Background

Info: We meet the protagonist, and find out her general circumstances and goals.

EXAMPLE: The understudy who's painfully shy and doesn't want to go onstage.

My Plot Notes:

2

The Kickoff

Incident: Our hero is launched into her story whether she likes it or not.

EXAMPLE: The lead actor gets the flu; the understudy must take over the starring role.

My Plot Notes:

3

The Lead-up:

Most of your action happens here as your plot twists unfold, your characters develop, and your story moves toward the climax.

EXAMPLE: The understudy develops

a stutter and keeps messing up her lines—until the stage manager (whom she has a crush on) starts helping her.

My Plot Notes:

4

The Climax:

The moment when the hero shows the world—and herself—what she's got.

EXAMPLE: On

opening night, the stage manager is sick. But against all odds, the show must go on!

My Plot Notes:

5

The Wrap-up:

The tying up of loose ends.

EXAMPLE: The show gets terrible reviews, but our hero and the stage manager find happiness together.

My Plot Notes: