

StoryGrowing 2019: “Change the Story, Change the World” Story Structure Worksheet

Please use this template to outline a story you would tell to target audience – *something that actually happened*, whether it’s an incident in which you were involved, something you observed, or simply a story you heard about.

Follow the directions below and answer the questions in the spaces provided. *You do not need to write out your entire story word for word.*

YOUR AUDIENCE

To whom would you tell this story? (*Your audience affects how you tell the story – i.e., the language you choose – as well as which parts you need to emphasize, so be clear on this before you do anything else. Even if this story would work for multiple audiences, please pick one for this exercise.*)

THE POINT

What one point do you want listeners to take away upon hearing this story? (*While this may not be evident to your audience until the end of the story, you must be clear on your intended message from the beginning.*)

BEGINNING (Act One)

Who is the protagonist of your story? (*Who is driving the action? With whom is your audience likely to identify? Remember, you have to begin with one person and tell us enough about him or her so the audience has a picture of them.*)

What is the setting for your story? (*Where and when does it take place? Any other important circumstances or conditions?*)

What is the protagonist’s goal? (*What do they want to do? What challenge or problem are they trying to overcome?*)

MIDDLE (Act Two)

What is the first barrier standing in the protagonist's way? (*What are the internal or external barriers?*)

How does your protagonist pursue the goal? (*What happens as the protagonist encounters subsequent barriers, and if there are no barriers, what is keeping the narrative interesting for the audience?*)

END (Act Three)

What is the resolution of the story? (*Does your protagonist achieve his/her/their goal or is there another outcome?*)

What is the meaning of the story? (*Go back to the second question about the point you intend to make and confirm you have delivered on that promise.*)