

STRUCTURE TEMPLATES

Sequences

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This template should only be used as a guide to help you build the bones of your story, and is not meant as a formula for success. Every screenplay is unique and requires a slightly different approach, but using this template can make planning your story a far less painful process. The first thing you might notice is that there are 6 scenes beneath each sequence. Since most screenplays contain between 40 and 60 scenes in total, 6 scenes (for a total of 48) represents the industry average. It is still an arbitrary number, and you may find you need as few as 4 scenes or as many as 8 scenes per sequence. You may even decide to use fewer or more sequences. For instance, eliminating the 8th sequence would shorten the third act and approximate the traditional television Movie Of the Week structure. Experiment with it, and most importantly -- have fun with it!

ACT I

Sequence 1

Scene 1:

Scene 2:

Scene 3:

Scene 4:

Scene 5:

Scene 6:

Sequence 2

Scene 1:

Scene 2:

Scene 3:

Scene 4:

Scene 5:

Scene 6:

ACT IIA

Sequence 3

Scene 1:

Scene 2:

Scene 3:

Scene 4:

Scene 5:

Scene 6:

Sequence 4

Scene 1:

Scene 2:

Scene 3:

Scene 4:

Scene 5:

Scene 6:

Act IIB

Sequence 5

Scene 1:

Scene 2:

Scene 3:

Scene 4:

Scene 5:

Scene 6:

Sequence 6

Scene 1:

Scene 2:

Scene 3:

Scene 4:

Scene 5:

Scene 6:

ACT III

Sequence 7

Scene 1:

Scene 2:

Scene 3:

Scene 4:

Scene 5:

Scene 6:

Sequence 8

Scene 1:

Scene 2:

Scene 3:

Scene 4:

Scene 5:

Scene 6:

Note: Remember that each sequence should have a beginning, a middle, and an end just as if it were a short film or a miniature version of the larger story. Establish a mini-tension or lesser goal that sheds light on or helps to solve the main tension or greater goal.