





**Turn Your Research
Into a Compelling Story
Part 2**

The THEME of my story is

Choose a theme from examples given in the video lesson, or create one of your own. Keep this generic and overarching without describing plot or action points. In one sentence, answer the question: So, what's your story about?

My OUTLINE: 1-3-3-1

1 Theme

3 Main Points, plus 3 Supporting facts, stories, examples for each Main Point.

Briefly describe each point below without telling the entire story. Main points should be overarching events, activities, teach points (for how-to), etc. Supporting points are stories, documents, facts, research results, examples, etc. you will use to tell the story of the main point.

I. Main Point _____

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

II. Main Point _____

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

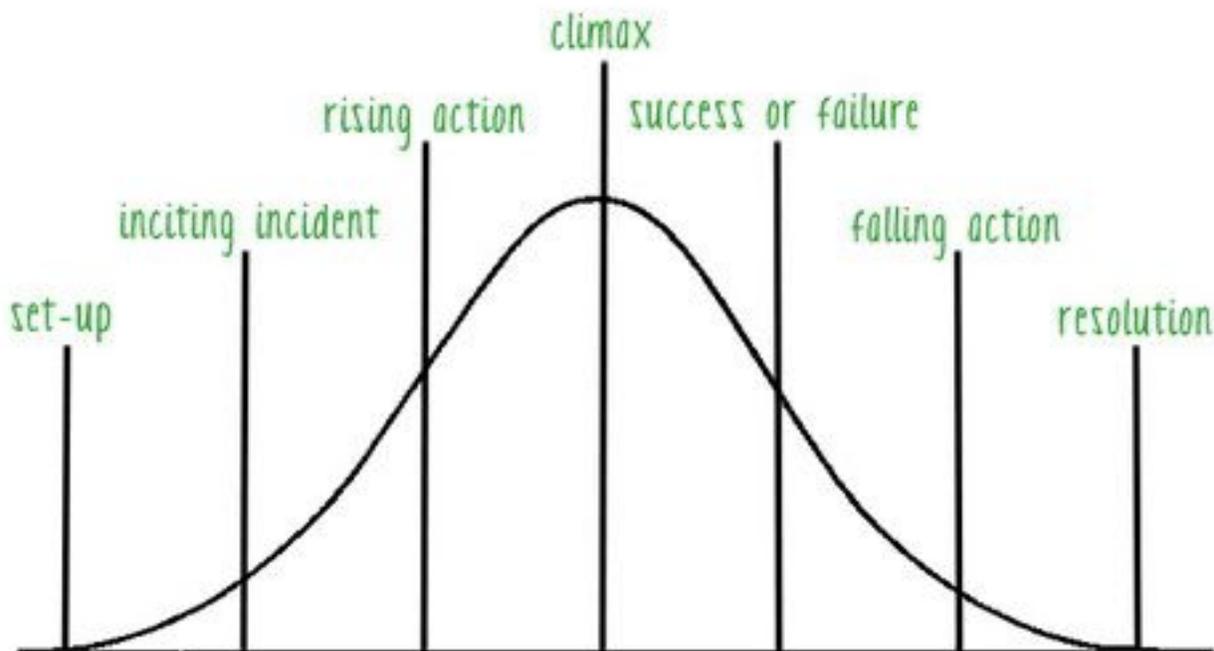
III. Main Point _____

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

1 Takeaway for the reader

What is the one thing you want the reader to get from your story? What should he or she think, feel, or do when finished reading your story? (Inspired, angry, moved to action, enlightened, etc.)

Story Arch



Source: <http://writing-questions-answered.tumblr.com>



**Turn Your Research
Into a Compelling Story
Part 2**

Elements of Story

Element	Description	Genre
Desire/ Motivation	The one thing you ultimately wanted. The one event that impacted or motivated you most. The one place/person that shaped who you are.	Memoir, autobiography
Characters	Key figures related to the desire or motivation. Describe them (appearance, mannerisms, reputation). Your relationship to them. How did you feel about them? Their relationship to each other.	Memoir, autobiography, how-to, self-help
Turning Point	The dramatic event that changed you.	Memoir, autobiography
Back Story	What happened before the turning point? What was your life like? (people, places, jobs, activities, incidents, experiences, possessions -- all related to desire or motivation)	Memoir, autobiography, how-to, self-help
Chronology	What happened first, next, last (all related to the theme)	Memoir, autobiography, self-help
Historical influence	How did events of the time influence the turning point?	Memoir, autobiography
Scenes	Where were you, what happened, who was there, who did what? Use descriptive words (show, don't tell).	Memoir, autobiography, how-to, self-help
Action	Use descriptive words to explain critical activities.	Memoir, autobiography
Dialogue	Who said what? (make it real)	Memoir, autobiography
Lesson, Moral, Knowledge Point	How did the turning point affect you? How did you feel? How should the reader react?	Memoir, autobiography, how-to, self-help
Expertise	Establish and explain your expertise; your qualifications to write about this topic.	How-to, self-help
Examples & Stories	Knowledge point in practice, how it was/could be done. Mistakes, successes, lessons learned, tips, quotes. Make it memorable.	Memoir, autobiography, how-to, self-help