

STEP 1: MORAL DEBATE AND CHARACTERS

Moral debate

What is your story's moral debate? What dilemma are the characters facing? What is at stake ?	
What are possible moral positions about this debate? List out how a variety of people could think about this debate, what different opinions or beliefs could exist on the subject.	

Characters

Identify the characters in your story and settle their characteristics.

Your story will be richer if your characters hold different moral positions, different beliefs about how one should think or act regarding the moral debate.

You can draft out as many character sheets as needed for your story. This tool is indispensable for your main character, but you can use it for important secondary characters (allies or antagonists) as well. You can also write about how your characters are related to one another.

Character sheet template

Name	
Age	
Gender	
Occupation	
Short biography (backstory <i>before</i> the story happens)	
Position regarding the moral debate	

STEP 2: DYSTOPIAN SPIRAL

Story features

Genre Is your story an intimate drama ? A thriller ?...	
Time When is your story set? (if in the future, how far?)	
Arena Where is your story set? (planet, country, city, type of environments, social context...)	

Questions to explore your story dynamics

Feel free to write outside this table to have more space. These questions are mostly there to sparkle ideas and help you set your story intentions. The order of the question do not matter.

A	Where does your story start? Is your world already dystopian or will it become so? What is your main character's situation and initial beliefs?	
B	What is your inciting incident? Reflect about events that could throw your character off their usual path.	
C	How will your story end? Will dystopia win or be overcome? Your ending says something about your philosophical beliefs about hope or fatality.	
D	What are the most significant problematic situations and obstacles your character(s) could encounter?	
E	Reflect about your dystopian spiral. Why is it impossible to prevent it? How could events, choices and chain of consequences lead to the worst outcomes?	
F	Reflect about ways out of dystopia. What would be wishable outcomes? How could the dystopian spiral be prevented or reversed?	
G	Evolution. How do you want your main character (and possibly other characters) to evolve along the story? What will they understand at the end that they initially did not? How will their beliefs change?	

STEP 3: KEY STORY POINTS

In order to settle the unfolding of your story, draft out a bullet points list of your story's key points, placing them within the 3 acts structure. This will be your roadmap for writing your story.

NB: Key points should be events that happen to your characters, strong emotional shifts they go through, or important choices they make. Obstacles, choices and consequences should be more and more difficult and intense as you build momentum towards your climax.

Story points template

ACT ONE

- ...
- ...
- ...

ACT TWO

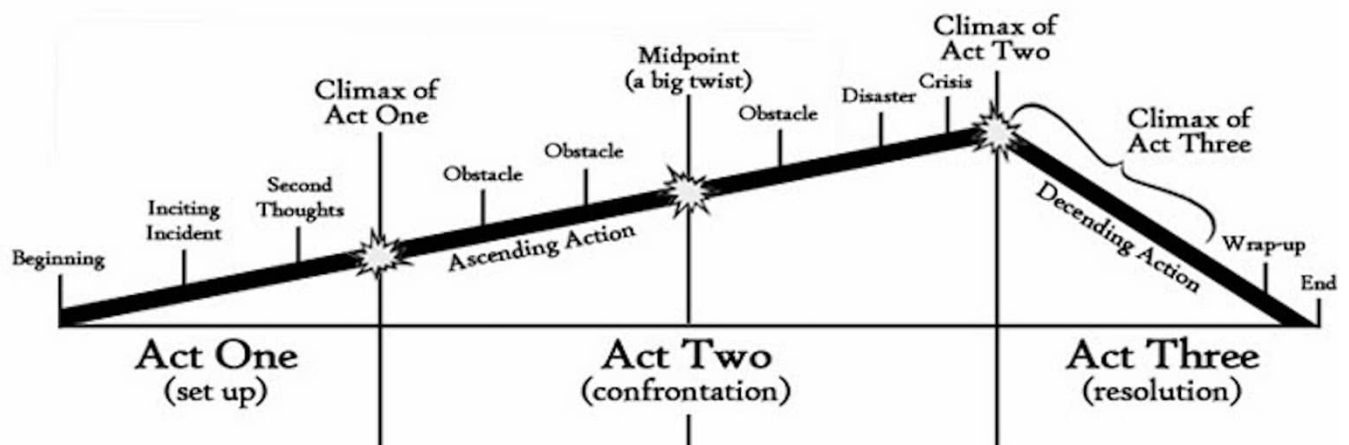
- ...
- ...
- ...
- ...
- ...
- ...

ACT THREE

- ...
- ...
- ...

Reminder

Three-Act Structure



STEP 4: WRITING YOUR STORY

Now that you have the backbone for your story, it's time to add the flesh and blood. Write your story in around 1 page (max 1,5). Feel free to add details, metaphors, and use style to create a unique atmosphere.

How to write as a group ?

Feel free to organize this writing phase in the way that feels most comfortable for you as a team. Possible methods include two main approaches: writing "outloud" together with a scribe to take notes (the scribe role can be held in turns) ; or dividing the story in several parts, with each person writing one part separately before putting it all together for harmonization. Feel free to adapt these methods or use different ones as you see fit.