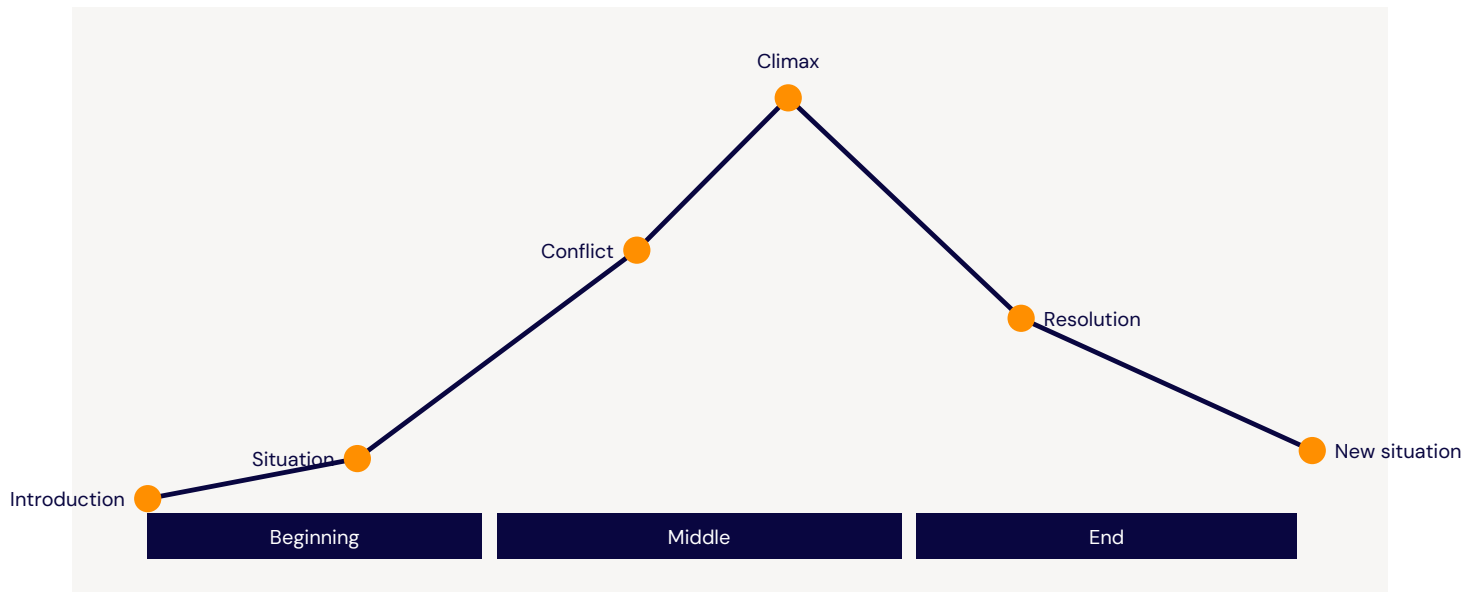


The Story Pyramid Template

Every story that works moves the same way: it builds, it turns, it lands. Fill in the eight steps and you have the skeleton of your story.



How to use it

Work through the eight steps on the next page in order. Write one or two sentences each, not a paragraph. If a step is hard to fill in, that is usually where your story is thin. The climax is the one to get right: if you cannot name the moment everything turns, you have an anecdote, not a story.

The eight steps

Introduction Who is the character, and where are we? Give the listener a place to stand.

Situation What is normal life here, just before it changes?

Conflict What goes wrong, or what gets in the way? No conflict, no story.

Rising action What does the character try, and what does it cost?

Climax The moment everything turns. Write the one sentence it hangs on.

Falling action What happens straight after, once the decision is made?

Resolution How does it end for the character?

New situation What is different now, and what does that mean for your listener?

Your story

Type into the boxes, or print this page and use a pen.

1. Introduction

2. Situation

3. Conflict

4. Rising action

5. Climax

6. Falling action

7. Resolution

8. New situation