

Academic Writing

Fall 2020

Plot Structure



Structure

What is structure in writing?

Structure is the order in which we present information.

● Structure

Why do we need structure?

Structure helps us communicate our ideas in a logical way, so our reader can better understand our message.

● **What is Plot**

Plot is a tool used in story writing to give a story **structure**.

It shows the order of events. It shows the cause and effect of actions within a story.

NOW
NOVEL



Conflict

All stories revolve around **conflict**.

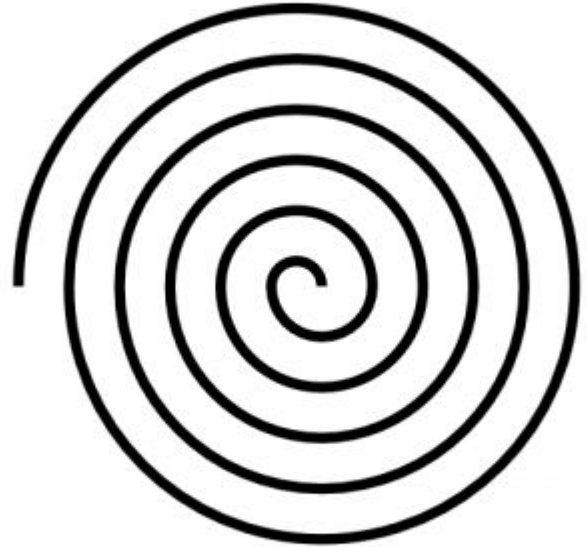
Conflict is the struggle (battle) between two forces in a story.

Try to imagine a story where there is not a “problem”

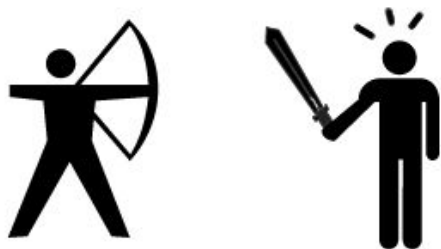
全ての物語には主人公の「葛藤」があります。それをめぐって話が展開されます。

Types of Conflict

- Human vs Human
- Human vs Nature
- Human vs Society
- Human vs Self



The Four Types of Conflict



Man vs. Man



Man vs. Nature



Man vs. Himself

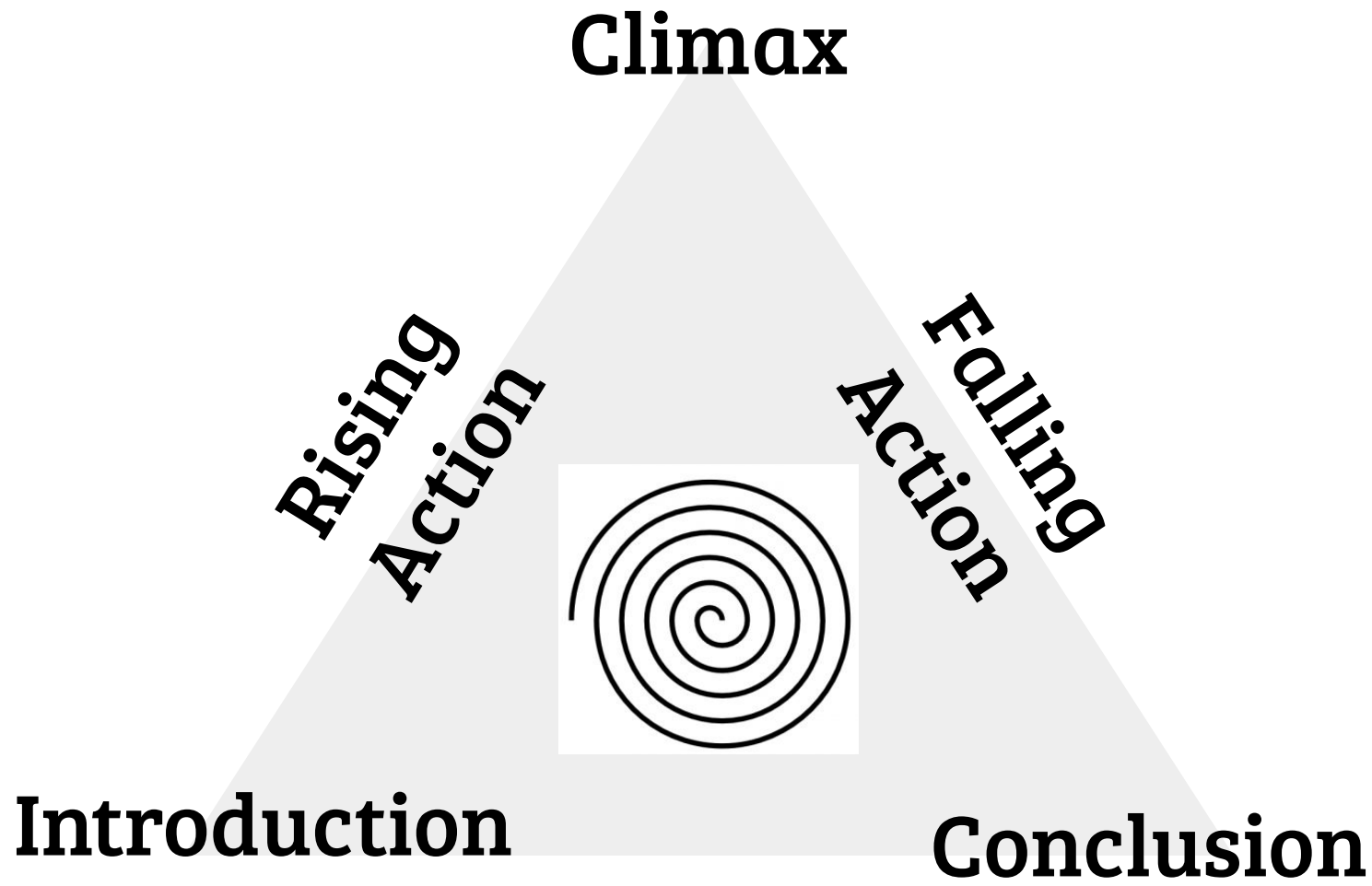


Man vs. Society

● Plot Structure

The most basic and traditional form of plot is the pyramid shape.

It has **five parts**.



● **Plot Structure**

Stories can be changed to make the introductions and conclusions longer.

This pyramid is similar to a “warm-up” and “cool-down” for the story.

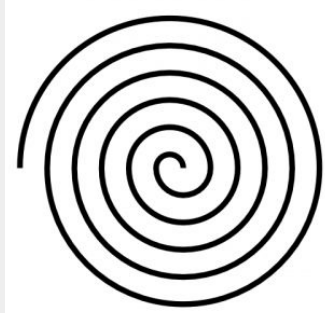
Climax

*Rising
Action*

*Falling
Action*

Introduction

Conclusion





Parts of a Plot

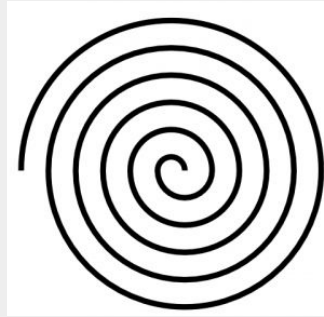
There are five parts:

- 1) Introduction (Exposition)
- 2) Rising action
- 3) Climax
- 4) Falling action
- 5) Conclusion (Resolution)

Climax: The point where the situation and events clearly change. The most intense moment of the story - either mentally or in action.

Rising Action: The series of events, conflicts, or crisis in the story that lead to the climax. Builds tension.

Falling Action: All of the action which happens after the climax.



Introduction: The beginning of the story, the situation before the action starts. Introduces where, when, and and the characters.

Conclusion: The final result, connecting all of the events into a final picture.



For more information:

These videos can give you more information! They use Disney movies to help show what plot structure is

1. <https://youtu.be/8yzY6buMflo>
2. <https://youtu.be/RHw5SMNlbtg>



Time Structures

Although stories always follow the plot diagram, events in the story doesn't always have to follow a time order.



Types of Time Structures

Plots can be told in:

- Chronological order (time)
- Flashback (memories)
- In media res - the middle of the action without any introduction



Genres

Genres are the different types, or styles, of plots we may find.

Examples of Genres

- Adventure
- Comedy
- Mystery
- Romance

