

Track the 7 Essential Elements in Every Scene of your Novel, Memoir, or Short Stories

What this Template will Do for You

- Filled in, this template serves as both:
 - A diagnostic tool with which to analyze your story and
 - A visual representation of all the scenes in your story.
- This template used in conjunction with BLOCKBUSTER PLOTS Pure & Simple gives you what you need to make each and every scene in your story sizzle.

TIP #1:

The energy of story breathes moment-by-moment in scene. At its best, each and every single scene advances the action plot of the story, develops the character, contributes to the theme, provides tension and conflict, and reflects a change in attitude or circumstances.

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INSTRUCTIONS

Indicate where the Summaries fall but only track the Scenes.

Columns

Column #1: Scene/Summary

This column is where you indicate what chapter you are tracking, which scene you are working on, and, when appropriate, where you indicate your summaries.

TIP #2:

Use abbreviations – SC for Scene, SU for Summary, but remember you are only going indicate where the Summaries fall. You will track your Scenes.

Column #2: Dates/Setting

This is where you plot the passage of time your story travels in terms of the day of the week, the month, the year and the time of day.

Also include, when appropriate, historical dates and events that take place during the time frame for each scene.

This is also where you will indicate the setting, where the scene takes place.

Column #3: Character Emotional Development

Note what is revealed about the nature, the psychology of the character in each scene.

TIP #3:

Character Emotional Development is what the reader most identifies with in story. Therefore: Character Emotional Development is the first major plot thread on the Scene Tracker.

TIP #4:

Use a different color pen for each major character.

Column #4: Goal

What specific goal does the protagonist hope to accomplish within the scene? The character has a specific goal in every scene that he/she hopes to attain.

TIP #5:

Make each notation as succinctly as possible.

Column #5: Dramatic/Action Plot

Dramatic Action is what actually happens in the scene. This column represents the front-story. Note on the Scene Tracker what action takes place in the scene.

TIP #6:

Dramatic Action is the second major plot thread.

Column #6 Conflict

If there is conflict, tension, suspense I the scene, simply put an X.

If there is NO conflict, tension, suspense, leave the column blank.

TIP # 7:

Story is conflict shown in scene.

Column #7: Emotional Change

Story is change. The action of each scene affects the character emotionally one way or another. This column is where you track the emotional changes the character moves through within each scene.

TIP #8:

Mark the column with a (+) if the character begins the scene in a positive state-of-mind -- confident, happy, hopeful, calm, mischievous, smug, lovestruck, surprised,

If throughout the scene the character's mood changes to the negative -- exhausted, confused, guilty, suspicious, angry, frustrated, sad, embarrassed, disgusted, frightened, enraged, ashamed, cautious, depressed, overwhelmed, lonely, jealous, bored, surprised, anxious, shocked or shy -- make a (-)

TIP #7

A character can pass through several moods or feelings or state-of-mind in the course of one scene. If there is no emotional change, ask yourself what does the scene accomplish in terms of the character?

Column, #8: Thematic Significance/Details

List all the details that show thematic significance in the scene.

TIP #8:

The theme is the why, the spirit of your story, your reason for writing the story, what you want your readers to take away from having read it. This is the third major plot thread you'll track on your Scene Tracker.

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