

NOTES FOR LONG STORIES

THE PARTS AND THEIR PURPOSES¹

Title

Grabs the readers' attention

Is capitalized and set apart

Introductory Paragraph

Introduces the topic

Grabs the reader's attention with an Introductory Option OR

Provides background information about the topic

Describes the setting

Describes the characters

Names the topic and leads into the events in the rest of the story

Section 1: Rising-Action Section

Paragraph 1

Presents events and information related to the problem

Paragraph 2

Builds suspense related to whether the characters can solve the problem

Paragraph 3

Builds more suspense related to whether the characters can solve the problem

Section 2: Climax Section

Paragraph 1

Presents events and information related to the crisis

Paragraph 2

Presents events and information related to the decision

Paragraph 3

Presents events and information related to initial actions

¹ Please note that these notes represent just one way that a long story can be organized. Students can choose to have more paragraphs or sentences than is shown here. For example, they can write two or more Introductory Paragraphs. They can choose to put various parts of a story into different paragraphs than is noted here. For example, they can choose to write about the problem in the Introductory Paragraph(s). They can choose to build more suspense as the characters fail to solve the problem in the Falling-Action Section. Please allow them to use their creativity in varying this organizational structure as long as the story flows nicely.

NOTES FOR LONG STORIES

Section 3: Falling-Action Section (cont.)

Paragraph 1

Presents events and information related to problem-solving actions

Paragraph 2

Presents events and information related to more problem-solving actions

Paragraph 3

Presents events and information related to more problem-solving actions

Concluding Paragraph

Gracefully tells the reader the story is ending

Presents events related to the ending

Provides the author's main message

NOTES FOR LONG STORIES (cont.)

THE SENTENCES IN THE PARAGRAPHS²

Introductory Paragraph

Sentence #1: A Topic Sentence that introduces the topic

Sentences #2 and 3: Sentences that describe the setting

Sentences #4 and 5: Sentences that describe the character(s)

Sentence #6: A Beginning Event sentence or Thesis Statement that names the topic and gracefully leads into the remainder of the story

Section #1: Rising-Action Section

Paragraph 1

Sentence #1: A Topic/Transition Sentence that introduces the problem

Sentences #2-7: Detail Sentences that present events related to the problem.

Paragraph 2

Sentence #1: A Topic/Transition Sentence that introduces events that start to build suspense.

Sentences #2-7: Detail Sentences that build suspense about whether the character(s) can solve the problem.

Paragraph 3

Sentence #1: A Topic/Transition Sentence that introduces more suspense-building events.

Sentences #2-7: Detail Sentences that build more suspense about whether the characters(s) can solve the problem.

Section #2: Climax Section

Paragraph 1

Sentence #1: A Topic/Transition Sentence that introduces events related to the crisis.

Sentences #2-7: Detail Sentences that present events related to the crisis.

Paragraph 2

Sentence #1: A Topic/Transition Sentence that introduces events that are related to the decision.

Sentences #2-7: Detail Sentences that describe events that lead to the decision and what the decision is.

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NOTES FOR LONG STORIES (cont.)

Section #2: Climax Section (cont.)

Paragraph 3

Sentence #1: A Topic/Transition Sentence that introduces events leading to the initial action.

Sentences #2-7: Detail Sentences that present the initial actions taken by the character.

Section #3: Falling-Action Section

Paragraph 1

Sentence #1: A Topic/Transition Sentence that introduces events related problem-solving actions.

Sentences #2-7: Detail Sentences that describe a group of problem-solving actions.

Paragraph 2

Sentence #1: A Topic/Transition Sentence that introduces a group of problem-solving actions.

Sentences #2-7: Detail Sentences that describe events related to that group of problem-solving actions.

Paragraph 3

Sentence #1: A Topic/Transition Sentence that introduces another group of problem-solving actions.

Sentences #2-7: Detail Sentences that describe events related to that group of problem-solving actions.

Concluding Paragraph

Sentence #1: A Concluding Transition Sentence that names the topic, names at least one character, and indicates that the story is ending (or introduces the ending of the story).

Sentences #2-5: Detail Sentences that describe events related to the ending of the story.

Sentence #6: A Clincher Sentence that ends the story, names the topic, and presents the main message of the theme.