3-Act structure handy reference guide

A convenient checklist to keep your screenplay on track

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Introduction

The 3-Act structure has been around since the dawn of writing, since the dawn of storytelling. In fact it has been around since the Greek antiquity and its philosophers, in particular Aristotle who proposed the definition of tragedy.

Over the past decade and especially since cinema and writing screenplays became one of the most popular ways of storytelling, a myriad of great books around the 3-Act structure - most of them inspired by the 3-Act Greek tragedy - have been published.

This reference guide is not designed to replace any of these helpful books and philosophies. Rather, it's designed to provide you with a visual checklist as you develop and write your screenplay--something to keep by your computer, on your mobile or printed out on

your wall as a comprehensive chart of the key elements of the 3-Act structure.

Instead of thumbing through pages and chapters of books you've read to find the section you want, this guide is a supplement that will help keep you focused on what matters most - developing your story.

Using the guide

Today, the typical feature-length screenplay is usually between 100 and 110 pages. The older formula of 120 pages is outdated, for the most part, as shorter has become better. That's not to say that 120 pages is bad. If you need it, write it. Likewise, if it's shorter

Below you will find a checklist diagram based on a 110 page feature script. You can adjust the items accordingly, based on your script length.

It's more important that you consider all the elements in the list no matter what the script's length is.

Again, as you can find many 3-act structure diagrams on the internet and in books, this is not designed to "reinvent the wheel", but rather to offer you an interactive tool as you develop your screenplay.

Good luck and happy writing!

Act 1

Establish the world theme, tone, hook, and genre

Ask yourself - What is your intention for these elements and how are they conveyed to the reader.