

Name:

## Story Outline

For your midterm, you will be telling us a story from your life. There are only three requirements for this:

1. Tell us a story from your life.
2. Make it a good story.
3. Make it 3 minutes long.

To help you plan for this, let's review the concepts we have discussed so far.

### 1. Make sure your audience can connect/relate to your characters.

How do you make characters relatable?

1. They need real flaws. (Cowardice, anger, arrogance, paranoia, self-doubt, impulsiveness, greed)
2. Give them quirks. (Everyone has little habits/preferences that would seem weird to others.)
3. Give characters conflicting traits. Have them break stereotypes. Make them surprising. (A doting grandmother who is also self-serving and manipulative.)
4. Give characters hopes, dreams, fears, pain, and problems. (All humans have these. Every good character has an itch they can't seem to scratch.)
5. Give them a past. (This can help explain a character's motivation).

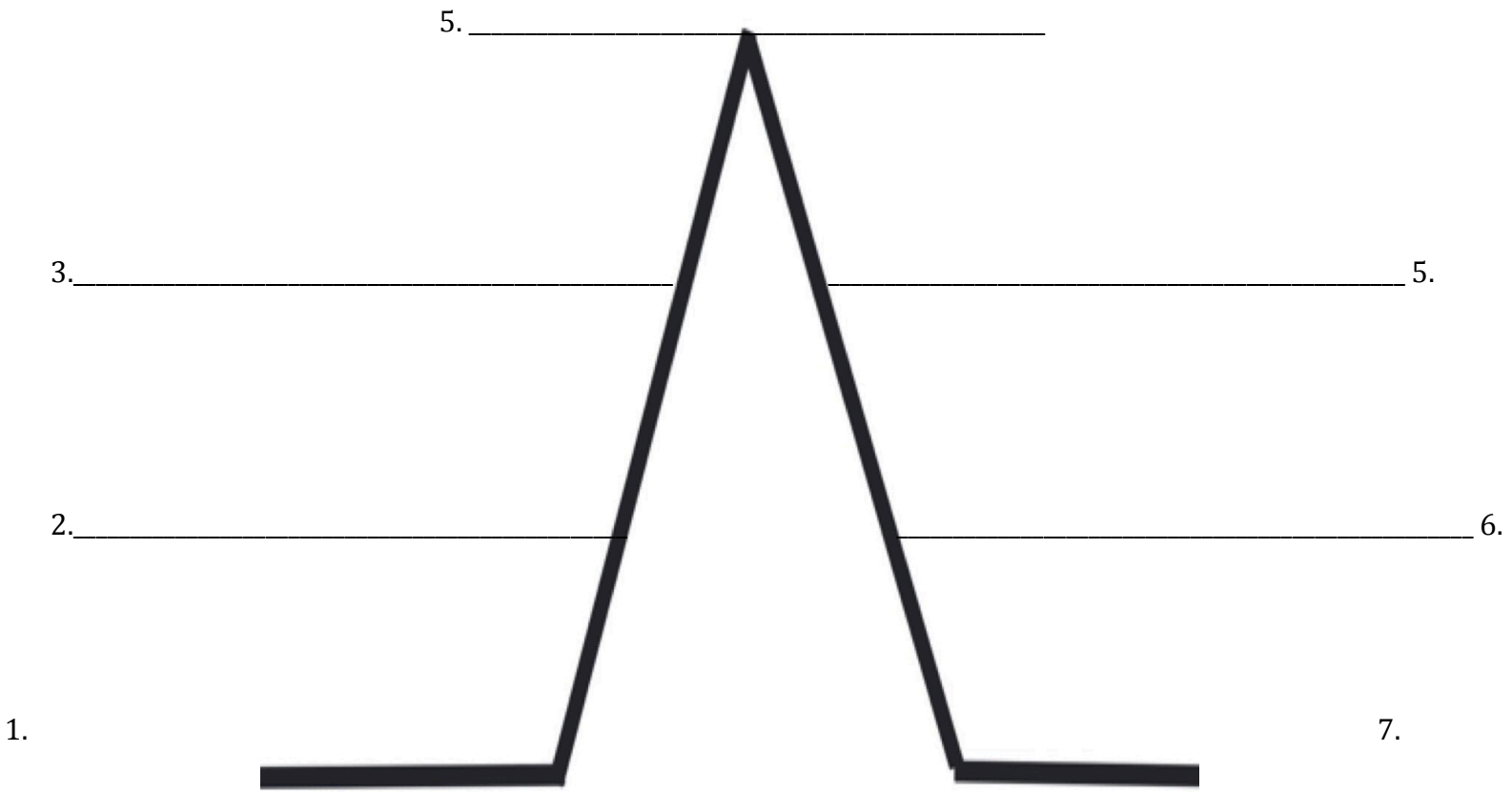
How do you reveal a character's traits?

1. By psychological description.
2. By physical description.
3. By what they say.
4. By what others say about them.
5. By their reaction to others.
6. By how they say it.
7. By what they think.
8. By what they do.
9. By their reaction to their environment.
10. By their reaction to themselves.

For the top 4 characters in your story, plan how you will make the character relatable, and how you will reveal these traits in the story. Use the notes above to help you. (Note: You don't need to do this for every character in the story. Some characters are best off as flat characters so as not to slow the story down.)

Character:	How will you make this character relatable?	How will you reveal this character's traits in the story?
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

**2. Make sure your plot gradually increases the tension in the story and then resolves harmoniously.**



**Outline at least 7 events based on the plot structure we discussed in class. Your storytelling should focus on getting us to the next event in the story. Great stories keep moving. At the top should be the moment with the most tension in your story. Keep in mind that some of your stories haven't completely resolved yet. End your story in a place that feels harmonious (It feels right based on what came before/it provides some closure) even if the conflict is ongoing.**

**3. Make sure your setting conveys an overall mood for the story.**

**Describe the setting of your story using 3 of the 5 senses:**

**Sight:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Smell:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Taste:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Touch:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Hearing/Sound: \_\_\_\_\_

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**4. Make sure the audience learns something about themselves/being human from your story.**

**What is the main conflict of your story?**

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**How did you change from this experience?**

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**What theme would be fitting for your story? (Should be more than one word, not overly broad or simple)**

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**What would be the best way to reveal that theme to your audience? Check one.**

- 1. Through showing your journey/how you changed from beginning to end.**
- 2. Through developing the conflict and portraying which side won.**
- 3. Through having it stated directly in the story.**