

A CONDENSED SHORT STORY OUTLINING TEMPLATE



1 Create the *Premise*

A premise is basically the idea from which your story springs. Make sure that your premise is well defined and more than the basic idea.

2 Describe *Setting*

In this part, describe the environment within which your story takes place.

Place/Location, weather, time, atmosphere/aura/mood.



3 Come up with *The Protagonist*

Come with the persona that is going to be your main character. You can also—optionally—decide on the antagonist.

Since the antagonist is antipathetic to the MCs objectives, they're easy to come up with if you've already created the MC—a writer just needs to feed off the polarity between the personas to create the adversary.

4 Objective, Conflict *and Resolution*

This part is where the story is given the meat—it's where you develop the story.

Ideas for this can be things like your protagonist's goal or objective, and conflict that arises as a result of the MCs quest to attain the goal.

5 Character *Development*

Lastly, give each important character in your story a life.

6 Sketch the Plotline, and *Fill it with Scenes*

With the above set, now you can focus on developing your ideas for the story.

Brainstorm all the ideas you have throughout your story (even ideas you're not sure about). Empty all your ideas, don't filter anything...

Final note:

Add some unpredictability to your plotline,
no one wants a predictable story!

