Logline Prep

Before crafting the perfect logline, first identify these eight elements from your story. Now, not every story will include every single element, but if you struggle to fill in any of the first six, take note, as this is probably an area that needs attention.

The Protagonist

Start by clearly identifying your main character. This is typically the person (or group) who experiences the most significant change or who goes through the most profound journey within the story.

The Goal

What is the protagonist's primary objective? What do they want to achieve or change by the end of the story? Remember, a compelling goal is something specific, tangible, and ideally visual.

The Antagonistic Force

This is the main obstacle or entity that stands in the way of the protagonist achieving their goal. It could be a person, an institution, or even a force of nature. There may be several antagonistic forces in your story, so pick whichever presents the biggest challenge for the main character.

The Inciting Incident

Without getting into too much detail, jot down the event that kicks off the story or propels the protagonist into action, taking them from their old world and forcing them into a new one.

The Character Flaw

List the protagonist's character flaw, weakness, or limitation. This could be a negative personality trait, a skill not yet leaned, a physical or mental disability, etc. It's something that's holding the protagonist back or something that they must overcome in order to achieve their goal.

The Stakes

What's at risk if the protagonist doesn't achieve their goal? Stakes amplify the tension and urgency in the story, so the bigger the better.

The Setup

Some stories are so large that they need to be placed into wider context in order for them to be fully understood. For example, "In a world where humans have become infertile...", "After spending over thirty decades in prison...", or "Set against the backdrop of the Crimean War...". If your story falls into this category, write down the additional info that's needed – but keep it brief!

The Allies

If other key characters significantly impact the protagonist's journey, they could be worth adding to your logline, although be careful not to overcrowd your logline with too much info, so keep things general, such as "best friend", "a gang of misfit criminals", or "her lover" etc.

Now mix and match these elements to create the most effective logline possible!

Protagonist: ....

Goal: ....

Antagonistic Force: ....

Inciting Incident: ....

Character Flaw: ....

Stakes: ....

Setup: ....

Allies: ....

Logline Prep

Before crafting the perfect logline, first identify these eight elements from your story. Now, not every story will include every single element, but if you struggle to fill in any of the first six, take note, as this is probably an area that needs attention.

The Protagonist

Start by clearly identifying your main character. This is typically the person (or group) who experiences the most significant change or who goes through the most profound journey within the story.

The Goal

What is the protagonist's primary objective? What do they want to achieve or change by the end of the story? Remember, a compelling goal is something specific, tangible, and ideally visual.

The Antagonistic Force

This is the main obstacle or entity that stands in the way of the protagonist achieving their goal. It could be a person, an institution, or even a force of nature. There may be several antagonistic forces in your story, so pick whichever presents the biggest challenge for the main character.

The Inciting Incident

Without getting into too much detail, jot down the event that kicks off the story or propels the protagonist into action, taking them from their old world and forcing them into a new one.

The Character Flaw

List the protagonist's character flaw, weakness, or limitation. This could be a negative personality trait, a skill not yet leaned, a physical or mental disability, etc. It's something that's holding the protagonist back or something that they must overcome in order to achieve their goal.

The Stakes

What's at risk if the protagonist doesn't achieve their goal? Stakes amplify the tension and urgency in the story, so the bigger the better.

The Setup

Some stories are so large that they need to be placed into wider context in order for them to be fully understood. For example, "In a world where humans have become infertile...", "After spending over thirty decades in prison...", or "Set against the backdrop of the Crimean War...". If your story falls into this category, write down the additional info that's needed – but keep it brief!

The Allies

If other key characters significantly impact the protagonist's journey, they could be worth adding to your logline, although be careful not to overcrowd your logline with too much info, so keep things general, such as "best friend", "a gang of misfit criminals", or "her lover" etc.

Now mix and match these elements to create the most effective logline possible!

Protagonist: ....

Goal: ....

Antagonistic Force: ....

Inciting Incident: ....

Character Flaw: ....

Stakes: ....

Setup: ....

Allies: ....