

WRITING IN THE SCIENCES



Storytelling in Science Writing

STORYBOARD TEMPLATE - FILLABLE PDF

PURPOSE:

This storyboarding technique comes from scriptwriting in TV and film and is useful for creating the narrative of your article, identifying your key paragraphs, and deciding on the flow of your paragraphs.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Below, you will find fillable boxes for your scenes (paragraphs) within each of the three acts of your scientific article.
- For each act, extra scenes have been provided at the bottom of this document in case you need more than four scenes per act.
- In the “Point” section of each scene, enter the single idea or message that you want your reader to understand. The point of the scene can also indicate the function of the paragraph. For example, the function and point of the last paragraph in the introduction is to summarize the goals, hypotheses, methods, and results.
- In the “Known” section of each scene, enter the known information that the reader already knows prior to reading this specific scene. This known information is often the information from the previous scene. Sometimes the known information is general knowledge that most readers interested in your article will know or is information from scenes earlier in the article.
- In the “New” section of each scene, enter the new information your scene provides that logically follows from the known information.
- The known to new technique is most useful in the introduction and discussion sections of an article because you need to lead your reader through your logic and ideas carefully. In contrast, you may not need to use the known to new technique for the method and results sections because often the scenes in these sections are listing information chronologically.

ACT 1: INTRODUCTION

Scene 1	Scene 2	Scene 3	Scene 4
Point:	Point:	Point:	Point:
Known:	Known:	Known:	Known:
New:	New:	New:	New:

ACT 2A: METHODS

Scene 1	Scene 2	Scene 3	Scene 4
Point:	Point:	Point:	Point:
Known:	Known:	Known:	Known:
New:	New:	New:	New:

ACT 2B: RESULTS

Scene 1	Scene 2	Scene 3	Scene 4
Point:	Point:	Point:	Point:
Known:	Known:	Known:	Known:
New:	New:	New:	New:

ACT 3: DISCUSSION

Scene 1	Scene 2	Scene 3	Scene 4
Point:	Point:	Point:	Point:
Known:	Known:	Known:	Known:
New:	New:	New:	New:

EXTRA SCENES (OPTIONAL)

ACT 1: INTRODUCTION (EXTRA SCENES)

Scene 5	Scene 6	Scene 7	Scene 8
Point:	Point:	Point:	Point:
Known:	Known:	Known:	Known:
New:	New:	New:	New:

ACT 2A: METHODS (EXTRA SCENES)

Scene 5	Scene 6	Scene 7	Scene 8
Point:	Point:	Point:	Point:
Known:	Known:	Known:	Known:
New:	New:	New:	New:

ACT 2B: RESULTS (EXTRA SCENES)

Scene 5	Scene 6	Scene 7	Scene 8
Point:	Point:	Point:	Point:
Known:	Known:	Known:	Known:
New:	New:	New:	New:

ACT 3: DISCUSSION (EXTRA SCENES)

Scene 5	Scene 6	Scene 7	Scene 8
Point:	Point:	Point:	Point:
Known:	Known:	Known:	Known:
New:	New:	New:	New: