



Synopsis

= a summary that breaks down a story's central plot, introducing the central characters in a concise but interesting way.

Key components of a synopsis

Orientation

= the opening paragraphs of your synopsis



1. Hook
 - sets scene & tone
 - intrigues the reader to read on
2. World-building
 - imaginary species, worlds and/or universes
3. Central Theme
 - the essence or premise of a story
4. Central Characters
 - Goal, Motivation, Conflict (GMC)

Major Turning Points

= significant events that impact character growth and/or the direction of your storyline



SIX-STEP STRUCTURE

1. Plot
2. Character
3. Action
4. Motivation
5. Reaction
6. Impact

Resolution

= moment where all tension and conflicts are resolved



- Character has grown
- Goal is achieved
- Character is comfortable in their newly-won world
- Moment of relief and happiness

Conclusion

= central characters embark on their new life



- Story and character arc wrapped up
- Shows characters moving forward in their new world
- Often encompasses an epilogue
- Can form part of the conclusion or can stand alone

Backstory

= event or events that have occurred prior to the beginning of your story

1. Events that directly impact GMC, including major positive or negative life events
 - weave into orientation paragraphs
2. Events that elicit emotions or overreactions, dredging up fears, flaws, wounds and phobias
 - weave into body of synopsis where relevant

What to keep in mind

- Use an active voice, third person, present tense
- Tell, don't show
- Only include secondary characters or plots if they impact on the central plot, character arc or romance
- Use evocative language to convey mood and tension
- Write in your own unique voice
- ALWAYS reveal the ending, as well as any secrets, spoilers and plot twists along the way