

## **Narrative Treatments**

A treatment is a brief synopsis for a TV show or film. You can think of it as somewhere in between an outline and a screenplay (or script). This is how most stories get “sold.” TV and Film executives are very busy, and in most cases, they are not going to read full screenplays. You have got to sell them on the idea of the story. If they like it, they will ask for a full screen play or script. For the purposes of this class, you will be expected to include the following on your treatments:

- Title
- Writer’s Name(s)
- Logline
- Character Summary
- Three Main Acts
  - Set Up
  - Conflict
  - Resolution
- Remember to answer the Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How
- Write in an active voice and in present tense

### **Loglines**

Loglines are simply one or two sentence summaries of a story’s premise. See these websites for examples

[https://library.creativecow.net/articles/gregory\\_browne\\_rob/logline.php](https://library.creativecow.net/articles/gregory_browne_rob/logline.php)

<http://www.elementsofcinema.com/screenwriting/logline-examples/>

### **Character Summary**

This should identify who will be in the film and some pertinent background information. In the case of a documentary, it should identify who will be interviewed and why.

### **Three Main Acts**

The three main acts are set up, conflict, and resolution. There is no set length on this, but it should tell the main idea of the story relatively briefly. Include only necessary information to tell the story.

# **Documentary Treatment Template**

- ☐ Title
- ☐ Writer's Name(s)
- ☐ Logline
- ☐ Interviewees
- ☐ Goal of Film
- ☐ Film Outline

## **Overview:**

In this section you should write a *logline*

## **Interviewees:**

You should list each person you are interviewing and why you will be interviewing them. What does this particular person bring to the story? Is he/she an expert in the field? Are they there to provide opinions? Give as much detail as you can about each person.

## **Goal/Purpose of Film:**

In this section you should describe in 1-2 sentences what you hope the audience takes away from watching your film. *What do you think your audience knows before they see your film? What do you hope the audience will learn by watching your film?*

## **Film Outline:**

In this section you should describe each segment/act of your film (introduction (set up), body (conflict), and resolution) in bullet point form. Please note that each segment may be comprised of multiple scenes. It is important that you identify the key ideas/information you want to convey in each segment. Be sure to include an introductory section (about 1/4 of the length of the film), the core or body (about 1/2 of the length of the film) and the resolution or conclusion (about 1/4 of the length of the film).

Adapted from Hofer & Swan, 2011