Step Outline Template

CELTX

Plan your screenplay scene by scene before you start drafting. Use this template to track what happens, why it matters and how each moment pushes the story forward.

The Basics

Title: _____

Genre: _____

Logline:

_____

_____

_____

Protagonist: _____

What do they want?: _____

What's in their way?: _____

What do they need to learn or change?:

_____

Map the Major Beats

Start with the biggest turning points. Don't worry about every scene yet.

Opening

What does the protagonist's life look like before the main story begins?

_____

_____

Inciting Incident

What happens that disrupts the status quo?

_____

_____

Act One Turning Point

What decision or event commits the protagonist to the story?

_____

_____

Midpoint

What major revelation, victory, defeat or change shifts the story?

_____

_____

Major Setback
What makes the protagonist's situation significantly worse?

_____

_____

Lowest Point
When does it seem like they've failed or lost what matters most?

_____

_____

Climax
What final choice, confrontation or action resolves the central conflict?

_____

_____

Resolution
What has changed by the end?

_____

_____

Build Your Step Outline

Use one section for each major scene or sequence.

Step _____
Scene / Location: _____
Characters: _____
What does the protagonist want here?

_____

_____

What happens?

_____

_____

What creates conflict or difficulty?

_____

_____

What changes by the end?

_____

_____

How does this lead into the next step?

_____

_____