3-Act Structure

Act	Purpose / Function	Typical Elements
Act 1 – Setup	Introduce world, characters, starting situation	Exposition, Inciting Incident
Act 2 – Confrontation	Characters face obstacles, rising conflicts	Turning point, Midpoint, Setbacks
Act 3 – Resolution	Final confrontation and consequences	Climax, Resolution, Epilogue

4-Act Structure

Act	Purpose / Function	Typical Elements
Act 1 – Setup	Introduction, status quo, inciting incident	Hook, Exposition
Act 2 – Rising Action	Obstacles, first confrontations	Conflicts, Subplots
Act 3 – Climax	Midpoint + escalation to climax	Major turning point, Revelations
Act 4 – Resolution	Aftermath, consequences, ending	Resolution, Epilogue

5-Act Structure

Act	Purpose / Function	Typical Elements
Act 1 – Exposition	Introduce characters, world, starting point	Setup, Inciting Incident
Act 2 – Rising Action	Build-up of conflicts and obstacles	Intrigues, first battles
Act 3 – Climax	Peak, major conflict, turning point	Decision, Revelation
Act 4 – Falling Action	Consequences, aftermath, setbacks	Reactions, Losses
Act 5 – Resolution	Conclusion, new order, epilogue	Ending, New Balance