

Pocket Outline

Whether you write by the seat of your pants, or you plot things out to a T, you can use this worksheet to craft a pocket-sized outline for your story. As your plot or characters change and develop, print a new sheet and make adjustments to your story's Living Outline.

Act One: The Beginning

Your Character's Status Quo:

Remember your **5 promises** to the reader: character, voice, world, problem, and event.

Decision One: The Point of No Return

External Event:

Internal Decision:



Act Two: The Middle

Your Character's Journey

Where can you use the **Rule of 3**? How can you give the **supporting cast** more page time?

Worst-Case Scenario

What does your character **want**?

What **obstacles** are in her way?

What is she willing to **risk**?

What's at **stake** if she doesn't get it?

How does she **transform** in pursuit of it?

The Midpoint or Mirror Moment

Is it a **Temporary Triumph** or **False Failure**?



Decision Two: The Dark Night of the Soul

External Event:

Internal Decision:

Act Three: The End

Crisis: (i.e. the events leading up to the climax)

Climax: (i.e. the scene where you resolve your story's central conflict)

Closure: (i.e. the resolution or consequences of the climax)

Remember your **4 possible endings**. Does your character get what he/she wants? Does he/she still want it?

