

Short Story Structure

- Create a narrative lead:
 - show the main character in action, dialogue, or reaction.
- Introduce the main character's character.
- Introduce the setting: the time place, and relationships of the main character's life.
- Introduce and develop the problem the main character is facing.
- Develop the plot and problem toward a climax:
 - e.g. a decision, action, conversation , or confrontation, or confrontation that shows the problem at its height.
- Develop a change in the main character:
 - e.g. an acknowledgement of understanding of something, a decision, a course of action, a regret.
- Develop a resolution:
 - how does the main character come to terms – or not – with his or her problem?

Source: Lessons that Change Writers, Nancie Atwell, 2002