

Each instructor develops his or her own assignments. Your instructor and the assignment sheet s/he has provided are the two best sources for guidance as you work toward a final draft. The handouts for the types of essays feature general guidelines to help you write solid essays, but they should be treated only as supplements to your instructor and the assignment sheet.

Getting Started

Plot is the arrangement and interrelation of events in a narrative work, chosen and designed to engage the reader's attention and interest (or even to arouse suspense or anxiety). Plot also provides a framework for the exposition of the author's message, or theme, and for other elements such as characterization, symbols, and conflict.

Terminology

Introduction: (exposition) offers background and context and substantiates the main events of the plot; the main characters and conflict(s) are introduced

Rising Action: the plot becomes more complicated as the conflict intensifies by a series of complications hindering the protagonist's ability to find resolution

Climax: (crisis) the point of greatest tension or emotional intensity; the turning point in the action when a protagonist's lot will change decisively, for the better or worse;

Closed Ending: all major plot conflicts are resolved, and a sense of order is restored;