

## The five Ws

Any story should contain a useful structure that is ideally, planned and considered beforehand so that it makes sense and is enjoyable to watch or read. Use the timeline below to help prepare and plan an overview of how the structure of

**Where** is the story set?  
Ensuring that it suits the genre, does the location provide any interesting problems? Is the location typical for this type of film or different in any way? Does it have any aspect or part of it that could provide an interesting twist or focus to the story?

**Why** do certain characters behave in a certain way? Why have certain events happened in a certain order? Why has the story developed in this way? Why might this affect what is happening towards the end of the film?



**Who** are the characters? How many are there? What are their names? What are the unique elements about each character that makes them specifically interesting or different to each other? What are each of the characters trying to do? Why should we care whether they succeed or not? What barriers are in their way?

**When** is the story set? Is it a specific time period? Is it a specific date that could be significant for a character of the audience? When does the story end? When do certain characters become involved? When do things in the story change or develop-what events might act as ignition or a starting point for other moments or key sequences?

**What** could go wrong? What barriers are put in the way of the characters to stop them from achieving their desired goals? How will you make the journey for the character interesting for the audience? By the end, what has changed? Why does this change help create some form of resolution? What makes this ending a recognisable one for this genre?

**WHO?    WHERE?    WHEN?    WHY?    WHAT?**