**The Three-Act Structure**

The **3-act structure** is an old principle widely adhered to in storytelling today. It can be found in plays, poetry, novels, comic books, short stories, video games, and the movies. Though quite simple, the 3-act structure has proven to be a valuable weapon in the arsenal of any screenwriter. Yes, there are alternatives to telling a story. But the 3-act structure is a highly accepted and greatly successful method.

In a nutshell, the 3 acts are labeled as:
Act I: Setup
Act II: Confrontation

Act III: Resolution
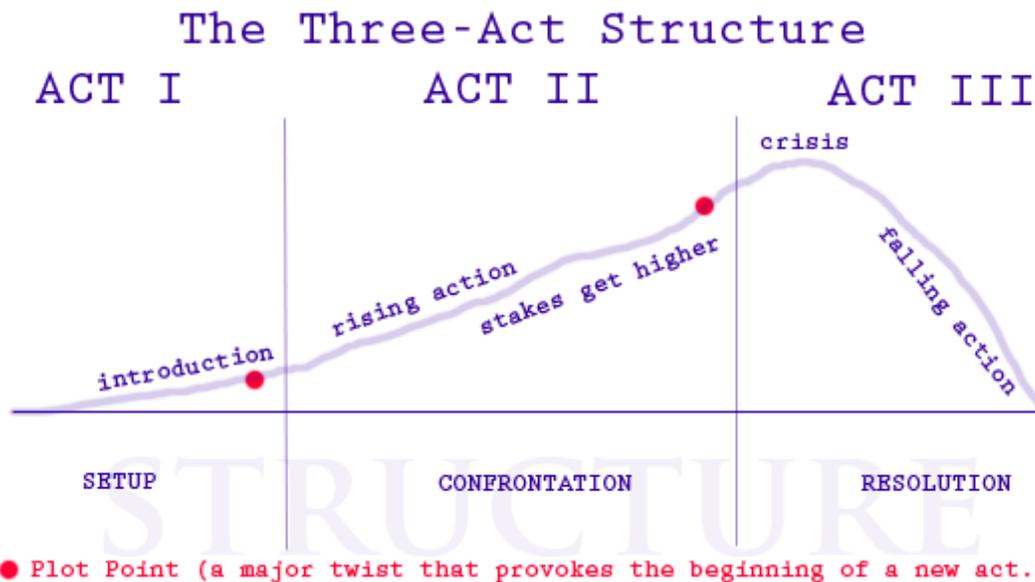
Act I: The Setup
The first act is where all the <u>major characters</u> of the story are introduced, plus the world where they live in, and the conflict that will move the story forward. It's in the first pages of the script that he defines the reasoning and logic of the story. This early in the script, anything is possible.
Act I must also present a strong <u>hook</u> – an exciting scene early in the script that grabs the audience's interest and hooks them.

Act II: Confrontation

The second act is by far the longest, encompassing half of the movie and taking place between the first and third acts. The story, its characters and conflict are all established. At this point, the writer has created a solid frame for his narrative.

Five Commonest Types of Conflict in Screenplays

> Conflict 1. Man Versus Self. ...
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> Conflict 2. Man Versus Society. ...
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> Conflict 3. Man Versus Man. ...
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> Conflict 4. Man Versus Nature. ...
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> Conflict 5. Man Versus Supernatural.

In the second act, the stakes escalate. If the hero is "on the fence" or confused about what he should do, then something must happen by the **midpoint** of the script to make his goal clear.

Act III: Resolution

The last act, Act III presents the final confrontation of the movie, followed by the **denouement**. This act is usually the shortest in length because quickly after the second turning point of the script, the main character is face to face with the villain or just about. Showdown ensues and then conclusion.

The third act is also when the writer ties up any loose ends and offers a resolution to the subplots.