

The Dramatic Arc

The Dramatic Arc of most stories, include the following components:

- **Introduction/Exposition**
 - The circumstances and the major players (protagonist/antagonist) in the story are identified.
 - The primary conflict (problem) is identified and connected to a goal for the protagonist.
 - An inciting event occurs that spurs the events into action
- **Rising Action**
 - Obstacles are introduced which frustrate the protagonists attempts to solve the problem.
 - These obstacles are key to creating dramatic tension.
- **Climax of the Dramatic Event**
 - The Problem and its solution are exposed and identified.
 - The protagonist either succeeds (comedy) or fails (tragedy).
 - This is the key turning point in the story.
- **Falling Action/Resolution**
 - The Problem is resolved and/or considered in light of the previous dramatic events.
 - Any remaining mysteries in the plot line are revealed.

Standard Timeline for These Components in a 50 minute lecture:

- **Introduction/Exposition:** 00:00 – 00:10
- **Rising Action:** 00:10 – 00:35 (40)
- **Climax of the Dramatic Event:** 00:35 (40)-00:40 (45)
- **Resolution/Falling Action:** 00:40 (45)-00:50

