Rule of Five
Story Outlining Template

\*Explanations of everything are on page 2.

# **Opening Scene/First Sentence**

* Opening Scene:
* First Sentence:

# **Call to adventure/driving purpose**

* Call to Adventure:
* Driving Purpose:

# **Twist(s)/Revelation(s)**

* Twist(s):
* Revelation(s):

# **Climax/Most Emotional Scene**

* Climax:
* Most Emotional Scene:

# **Resolution/Cliffhanger/Final Scene**

* Resolution/Cliffhanger:
* Ending Scene:

How to Fill out this Outline

This is my outline format, which I use for writing my stories. This is not a comprehensive outline, not even a true skeleton. Instead, this is simply an overview meant to give you a bit of a head start and guideline for when you start writing. So, how does it work, you ask? Well, below, I will explain what each number is for, and from there, you just fill out the worksheet accordingly.

Ready to get started? Here we go! ^\_^

1. **Opening Scene**: This is what it says. What you want to do here is stop and think “where do I begin? Where do I put the camera? What is my hook? How is this scene gripping and entertaining?”

**First Sentence**: This is to give you a starting point. Take a moment and listen to your mind. What is the first sentence that comes to your mind?
2. **Call to Adventure**: Easy enough. This is simply “what is the thing that starts the main conflict of the story. What happens? Does the protagonist get offered an interesting challenge? Is there a quest at hand? Are they visited by a dark and mysterious wizard who speaks of doom and gloom? You get the picture. What propels the main character into the rest of the story?

**Driving Purpose**: This one is only slightly different from the previous, yet still important. The Driving Purpose is the motivation for the character to answer the Call to Adventure. Are they saving their little sister? Are they protecting king and country? Are they simply bored and looking for thrills?
3. **Twist**: What happens in the story that surprises the reader? A good twist is always a welcome tactic! Also, there can be as many twists as you want, so feel free to make a list here!

**Revelation**: What do the *characters* learn? Obviously, this is what the reader learns too, but the revelation is technically when the reader and characters learn simultaneously. This, too, can happen as much as needed.
4. **Climax**: We all know what this is, but if you don’t, the climax of the story is the turning point where everything that the story has built up to finally comes to fruition. So, think of it as the high point, the summit of the mountain you’ve been climbing.

**Most Emotional Scene**: This is my personal philosophy, as I believe that the climax should be the scene with the most emotional value. Whether you believe that or not, it’s still good to know what scene you want to be the most emotional.
5. **Resolution/Cliffhanger**: how does the story end? Or does it? A resolution is when all the necessary loose ends have been tied up and the story finally ends. The Cliffhanger is the hook at the end that makes the reader want more. A cliffhanger can be counted as one of your twists/revelations technically, but I’d put it here for chronology’s sake.

**Final Scene**: Similar process to the opening scene. In your mind, what scene brings the story to a close? Does the protagonist return home? Are they crowned king? Do they save their little sister? Do we see their funeral? Anything. Don’t worry as much about this one; it will probably change while writing.

Anyway, this is my little process of outlining. Do with it as you will. Hope it helps!