

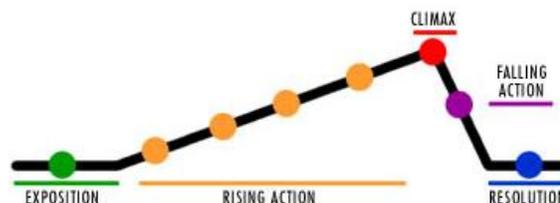
# COMPUTER LITERACY

## DIGITAL VIDEOGRAPHY PROJECT

Group Member Names:

# WRITING THE STORY

Before you can begin filming, you need a plan. Before you can make your plan, you need a **story**. Because your short film is, well, short, it does not need to be a very long or complicated story, but it does need to be a *complete* story. What makes a complete story? The answer consists of a few key components: the exposition, the build-up or “rising action”, the climax, and then the resolution.



## ELEMENTS OF A SHORT STORY

**The Exposition** – This is what you use to grab your audience’s attention right from the start. It “exposes” the conflict or problem that will be dealt with in your story. Think about the movie *The Hobbit*, where very early on Bilbo Baggins is visited by Gandalf and then a group of hungry dwarves who propose a life-changing adventure.

**Rising Action** – This is where the story builds up, filling your audience in on important information and building up their interest and anticipation. In the example of *The Hobbit*, this is the journey on the way Lonely Mountain, with all of the events along the way, such as the trolls, the encounter with the Wood Elves, etc. Everything is building up to the big final confrontation with Smaug the dragon.

**The Climax** – This is the peak of the story and the action. In *The Hobbit*, this is where **[spoiler alert!]** Smaug the dragon is slain with the black arrow.

**Falling Action** – This is how you bring your audience down from the climax and carry them to the end of the story where everything turns out like it is supposed to. In *The Hobbit*, this could include the epic battle for control of the dwarves’ wealth and kingdom, fought between the dwarves, elves, men, orcs, etc.

**Resolution** – This is the end of the story – how things finally turn out. Do the dwarves successfully defeat their rivals and reclaim their ancient kingdom under the mountain, with all its splendid gold and jewels? You will have to go watch the final installment of *The Hobbit* to find out! Or just go read the book, which is probably better.

**BOTTOM LINE** – If your story sucks, no amount of special effects, bells, and/or whistles will rescue it. You will end up with *The Expendables* – an epic cast, plenty of explosions, and virtually no story to speak of. Do not skip the step of preparing a good story! A great story line can make even a poorly edited film better, because it

gets your audience interested and leaves them with feeling well-entertained.



# PLANNING YOUR SHORT FILM'S STORY

## Step 1: Your Scripture Verse

You don't need to limit yourselves to Bible stories (though you certainly may, if you wish), but you *do* need to base your story on at least one verse from scripture. For example, you could write a tragic story about a mercenary (someone who fights for money) being killed in a war, based on Matthew 26:52: *Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword.* What verse or passage of scripture will you base your short film on?

## Step 2: Your Story's Plot

Now brainstorm with your group to lay down a basic story plot based on your verse of scripture, following the plot steps outlined earlier:

➤ **The Exposition** – How will you begin your story and grab your audience's attention?

➤ **Rising Action** – How will you develop your story to build up to the big moment?

➤ **The Climax** – What will be the "big moment" in your story that everything builds up to?

➤ **Falling Action** – How will you bring your audience back down and get them ready for the end of the story?

➤ **The Resolution** – How will you bring your story to a close that leaves people feeling like everything is done?

Before you go any further, Mr. Peyton needs to sign off on your short story plot outline:

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Now, on to Storyboarding! →