

Screenplay 6th Week

I. Writing Act II

Act I	Act II		Act III
	First Half	Second Half	
	Sub-dramatic context	sub-dramatic context	

Character + risks → better grasp → rededicate to her journey

Kindle the fire → flames intense → dark night

(the cabdriver ↔ Tom Cruise; protagonist ↔ antagonist)

II. Dialogue:

1. Moves the story forward;
2. Establishes character relationships;
3. Gives your characters depth;
4. Reveals the conflicts of the story and characters;
5. Comments on the action;
6. Reveals the emotional states of characters, etc.

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Interaction between two or three characters?

1. Two people in a room, in which there is a diamond. Now the diamond is gone.
2. Three people in a room, etc.
3. Two people are in a room, a thief comes in.

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Trial

Love triangle

A couple is having a spat, and the man's mother comes in.

The woman has chosen her beau

The judge has handed down a verdict

A wants to gain B's support in opposing C, while B wants to gain C's support in opposing A, and C wants to gain A's support in opposing B.

A wants B, who wants C, who wants A.

Two people, one of whom is not aware of the presence of a third party

Only two, but one is in disguise

III. Conflict: people → location

Taxidriver
Lawyer

IV.

1. *Brokenback Mountain*

Act I: relationship between Ennis and Jack

PPI: they descend the mountain and go their separate ways.

Act II:

First Half: Ennis and Jack both married, but unable to have loving relationship with their new families.

Mid-point: Ennis and Jack get together again.

Second Half: E's and A's unhappy marriages and their unhappy new life (seldom meet each other)

PPII: Jack is unhappy, but Ennis is driven by his childhood memory, and cannot commit to Jack.

Act III: resolution

2. *The Shawshank Redemption*

Act II:

First half: Andy's survival in prison and his developing relationship with Red.

Second half: Andy established in his prison life, and how he wants to contribute and pass on his education to others

3. *Chinatown*

Act II:

First half: Gittes finds out what's going on.

Mid-point: connection between Noah Cross and Mrs. Mulwray

Second half: Gittes finds out who is behind it

4. *Thelma & Louise*

Act II:

First half: the two girls pick up J.D. (Brad Pitt), only to have him steal

their money.

Mid-point: J.D. is picked up by the police.

Second Half: J.D. tells them that Thelma and Louise are heading for
Mexico. . . .

Story: a young woman in an unhappy marriage who enrolls in an art class and ends up having an affair with her teacher.

Act I: set up the unhappy marriage of the woman

Plot Point I: she enrolls in the art class

Act II:

First Half: we see her juggling her art class, her painting, and her marriage, as well as her feeling about herself as she gets to know the teacher.

Mid-Point: she has sex with the teacher for the first time.

Second Half: her falling in love with the teacher

Plot Point II: she discovers that she was pregnant

What scene do you think Pinch II is?

Going to the doctor's office?

Having a fight with her husband

Getting into an argument with the teacher

Leaving her husband

Telling the teacher she loves him

Learning the teacher has a wife

A weekend trip where they make love and she conceives

Act I	Act II		Act III
	First Half	Second Half	
<i>Unhappy marriage</i>	Sub-dramatic context sub-dramatic context		<i>Leaves both husband and teacher</i>
<u>Enrolls in art class</u>	<i>Relationship with teacher</i>	<i>The affair and falling in love</i>	
(PPI)	Pinch I	Pinch II <u>Finding herself pregnant</u> (PPII)	
SET-UP	CONFRONTATION		RESOLUTION