

Storytelling - Narrative structures

GENRES

Topic 2



What is narration?

It is a literary format that uses written or spoken commentary to convey the story to an audience. Narration involves a set of techniques by which the creator presents the story. **These techniques include:**

- **Narrative voice:** the perspective through which the story is told (first person, second person, and third person)
- **Narrative time:** time frame of a story in the past, present, or future.
- **Narrative type:**
 - ***Linear narrative***
 - ***Non-linear narrative presents***
 - ***Quest narrative***
 - ***Viewpoint narrative***



Who is narrator?

The narrator is a **personal character** or **impersonal voice** that the creator (author) of the story developed to inform the audience about the story.

The narrator may be: an anonymous, impersonal, or independent entity with some relation to the story; author as a character; or any other character directly appearing and participating in the story, whether fictional or factual.



Narrative structure

According to **Aristotle**, a tragedy, which is one type of a plot, can be divided into three stages:

- a beginning, a middle, and an end.

Gustav Freytag (German novelist and playwright) derived a model consisting of 5 parts:

- exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, catastrophe (denouement).



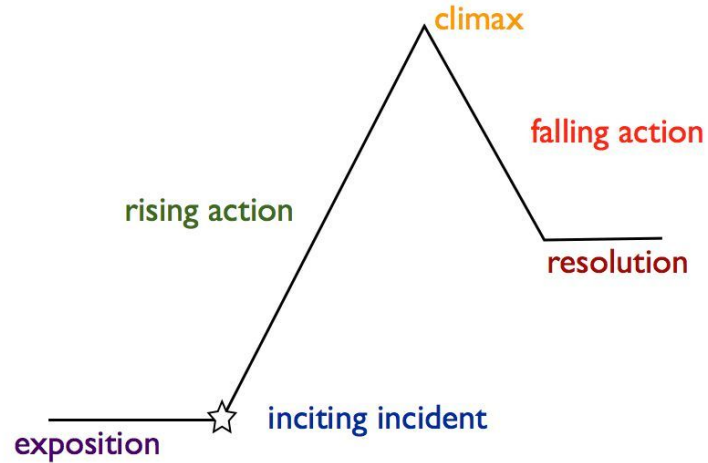
Narrative structure

Syd Field (American author of books on screenwriting) introduced the paradigm of the story structure, which is based on Aristotle's framework, but adjusted for film. It consists of three acts:

- Set-up, Confrontation, and Resolution. They also include several twists and turns.



freytag's pyramid



Glatch, S. (May 12, 2020), The 5 Elements of Dramatic Structure: Understanding Freytag's Pyramid, Writers.com, Retrieved from: <https://writers.com/freytags-pyramid#gallery>



Non-fictional genres – journalistic

Genre is formally and content-wise closed text unit, which is defined by three components: style of language, theme, and composition.

The basic division of non-fictional journalistic genres is into two groups: **informative** and **opinion-based**.



Non-fictional genres – journalistic

The most important **informative genre** is **news**. The other examples are:

- Report
- Feature
- Interview (it is both a method of work (asking questions and gaining answers to be further processed) and a genre)

Typical examples of opinionative genres are:

- Article
- Comment
- Column



Non-fictional – documentary

Documentary is a type of film whose main goal is to **portray reality as opposed to both feature and animated films**. It uses specific shooting techniques – shaky camera, hidden camera, or improvisation – which are sometimes adopted by other film genres (e.g. mockumentary).

Alberto Cavalcanti, Brazilian-born director, producer, screenwriter, and art director of motion pictures in the mid-20th century, gave several recommendations to documentary film-makers. They were summarised by Uruguayan literary critic Emir Rodríguez Monegal



Fictional

Drama is telling the story through dialogues and monologues.

The basic theoretical principles of the drama were established by Aristotle in his Poetics, where he described the structure of a **tragedy**.

Comedy is a literary or dramatic genre that always ends happily. The opposite of comedy is tragedy. Humour along with comics are usually the basic elements of this genre.



Genres in between (cross-genres)

Mockumentary - a blend of fact and fiction

Docudrama - fiction that includes documentary elements

Docufiction - documentaries including fictional elements

Dramedy - or comedy-drama is using both serious and comic subjects

Satire - work of art, especially a literary one, using comicism, ridicule, caricature and irony to criticize shortcomings and negative phenomena



Division of films on basis of running time

Feature film (feature length film) is usually between 75 and 210 minutes long

Featurette is shorter than feature, but longer than short film, usually 24 – 40 minutes long

Short films are usually shorter than 40 minutes