

Structural Checklist [Hague, pp.87-98]

1. Every scene, event, and character in the screenplay must contribute to the protagonist's outer motivation.
2. Early in the screenplay, show the audience where the story is going to lead them.
3. Build the conflict.
4. Accelerate the pace of the story.
5. Create peaks and valleys to the action and the humor.
6. Create anticipation in the audience.
7. Give the audience superior position.
8. Surprise the audience and reverse the anticipation.
9. Create curiosity in the audience.
10. Foreshadow the major events in the story.
11. Echo particular situations, objects, and lines of dialogue to illustrate character growth and change.
12. Pose a threat to one of the characters.
13. Make the story credible.
14. Teach the audience how to do something...vicariously.
15. Give the story both humor and seriousness.
16. Give the movie an effective opening.
 1. hero action introduction
 2. hero nonaction introduction
 3. new arrival
 4. prologue
 5. flashback
 6. montage
17. Give the story an effective ending.