

THESIS LOGLINE WORKSHEET

Name	Ackerman, Nicole	
Thesis Title	Tales from the Sandbox	TV Drama
	TITLE	Film, TV Drama, TV Sitcom, Animation, Comic, Web Series

ACT 1						
In Iraq 2007	,	A	motivated	,	naive	Combat medic
SETTING: Only if in the past or future, on another planet, or in an alternate reality or dimension.		a, an	positive adjective		negative adjective that must be overcome to accomplish the goal	descriptive noun(s)
MAIN CHARACTER: Who is this story about?						
NOTES:						

Arrives in country to mortar strikes and warning sirens screaming	and must overcome
INCITING INCIDENT: What happens at the beginning of Act 1?	
NOTES:	

a	tough	,	cruel	war
a, an	positive adjective		negative adjective that will cause the antagonist to win or lose	descriptive noun(s)
SINGULAR EXTERNAL PRIMARY ANTAGONIST: Who tries to stop the main character from accomplishing the goal?				
NOTES:				

ACT 2	
to	Save the lives of the soldiers she watches over and ensures everyone returns home
GOAL: What does the main character try to accomplish during Act 2?	
NOTES:	

ACT 3	
by	Showing compassion and executing her medical skills to the best of her ability.
HOW: What must happen in order for the story to end?	
NOTES:	

THESIS BRAINSTORM WORKSHEET

Name	Ackerman, Nicole
Thesis Type	TV Drama
	Live Action Feature, Animated Feature, TV Animation, TV Drama, TV Sitcom, Web Series, Game, Comic Book, Graphic Novel

Title	Tales from the Sandbox
Logline	In Iraq 2007, a motivated, naïve combat medic arrives in country to mortar strikes and warning sirens screaming and must overcome a tough, cruel war to save the lives of the Soldiers she watches over and ensuring everyone returns home by showing compassion and executing her medical skills to the best of her ability.
NOTES:	

ACT 1	
(Each response must be written with only 1 sentence.)	
The main character is the person who the story revolves around who actively drives the narrative forward. Although there may be other characters and other plots, this is your “A” character in your “A” plot.	
Create a singular main character for your story. Describe your main character.	
Winter Edgar, late 20’s early 30’s, new Sergeant and new combat medic, is highly motivated, yet naïve about the war in Iraq even though she has deployed before.	
NOTES:	
The Inciting Incident (“Call to Adventure”) is what happens in the very beginning of the story. It sets up the adventure and really tells us what this story is going to be about.	
Create an inciting incident. Describe your inciting incident and how is your main character first introduced in the story.	
She barely gets her things put down when the base is attacked and all medical personnel are to report to the hospital but her unit is pulled to the scene of the incident.	
NOTES:	

Plot Point 1 is the establishment of the main character's goal. The hero always chooses the path of least resistance, but circumstances make that impossible. Your main character must be "forced" to accept the quest. Literally state the goal that the main character is forced to pursue. By the end of Act I, you should have identified a clear, singular, primary antagonist.

The hero always chooses the path of least resistance. The main character does not voluntarily go on a quest to accomplish a goal, but rather the events confronting the main character force the main character to go on a quest and accomplish a goal.

Create an event or series of events that force the main character to take action. Describe the event or events that force the main character to pursue a goal.

She arrives last not knowing where to go or what direction she's going and she's directed to search for any other injured Soldiers in the muck.

NOTES:

Your main character must have a clear and distinct goal that when reached, immediately ends the story. It cannot be internal; it must be external and specific. Internal, ephemeral, intangible goals are secondary and tertiary goals.

Create a distinct, external, tangible goal for your main character. Describe the goal of your main character.

She locates and begins treatment on an injured Soldier but requires assistance to move him for treatment.

NOTES:

The primary antagonist is a singular, separate, external person who is the shadow figure of your main character and the hero of the primary antagonist's own story. The goal of the primary antagonist is the exact opposite of the goal of the main character. The primary antagonist actively strives to thwart the main character from accomplishing the main character's goal.

Create a singular, separate from the main character, external person as the primary antagonist in your story. Describe the primary antagonist.

Sergeant First Class Grundhoffer, mid 40s senior medic and medical operations Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO), thinks he's God's gift to the Army, and women, tries controlling Winter and the other female medics in the unit.

NOTES:

Describe how your primary antagonist first introduced in the story.

Grundhoffer is directing the medical personnel at the scene.

NOTES:

Describe the goal of your primary antagonist.

Grundhoffer wants to get closer to Winter, keep her under his control and bed her while destroying any sense of authority she has in the unit.

NOTES:

ACT 2

(Each response must be written with only 1 sentence.)

Preparing, otherwise known as “The Approach to the Inmost Cave”, or “sequence to midpoint”, is the really cool and unique event or series of events that happens directly before the Midpoint/Supreme Ordeal. It’s about 10 pages before page 60 in a screenplay.

Create a really cool, unique event or series of events for your main character leading up to the Midpoint. Describe the unique and really cool **events that lead up to your main character’s first confrontation with the primary antagonist.**

When all the patients are loaded up and on their way to the hospital for further treatment, one of the brand new female medics breaks down after losing her patient and Grundhoffer tells her that medics never cry, Winter hugs her and tells her it’s okay that means she’s still human.

NOTES:

Your Midpoint is an external confrontation (“Supreme Ordeal”) usually between the main character and the primary antagonist. This is a moment of great CONFLICT. Your main character should not merely be a passive observer during this stage.

Put your main character and the primary antagonist in the *same location* and create a *face-to-face* external, direct confrontation. Describe what happens at this moment during the **midpoint between your main character and primary antagonist.**

Winter and Grundhoffer battle over her position in the unit, he wants her as his assistant and she needs the field and medical experience if she is to lead the medics in the unit.

NOTES:

“The Reward” is something the main character gains from confronting the primary antagonist in a face-to-face conflict.

Describe what your **main character gains after confronting the primary antagonist.**

Winter gains the respect of the other medics as well as the doctors she works with for standing her ground, even though she disobeyed a senior NCO.

NOTES:

Plot Point 2, “The Road Back” creates an “all is lost” moment and/or “crisis” that the main character must confront. A chase often ensues. In this beat, demonstrate a loss. Your main character should experience a metaphoric death.

Create a moment where your main character **loses something to the primary antagonist and it appears as though the primary antagonist has won. Describe what your **main character loses to the primary antagonist**.**

Grundhoffer refuses to push a promotion packet through that Winter had submitted before the deployment in his attempt to further control her and her future yet, through the support of the Brigade Surgeon and the Field Surgeon the packet goes forward.

NOTES:

After the all is lost moment, the main character experiences a moment of hope, renewal, and rebirth, where an idea or plan is forged to make one last attempt to overcome the primary antagonist and accomplish the main character's goal.

Create a moment of rebirth and renewal for your main character. Describe your **main character's moment of rebirth and renewal.**

Winter is a newly minted Staff Sergeant with the new title of squad leader bestowed upon her by the Brigade Surgeon, Grundhoffer is not pleased and begins a campaign against her by spreading rumors.

NOTES:

ACT 3

(Each response must be written with only 1 sentence.)

During the Climax, the main character experiences a final confrontation with the primary antagonist, ending the central conflict and ultimately succeeds or fails at accomplishing the goal.

Create a specific climatic confrontational event directly between the main character and primary antagonist. Describe what happens during the **climax.**

Winter confronts Grundhoffer after hearing one of the rumors from a concerned Soldier and their confrontation is overheard by none other than the Field Surgeon Captain Jason Pierce, one of Winter's supporters.

NOTES:

The Resolution is what the main character experiences after the climax/final conflict, as the main character returns home to the ordinary world.

Create a resolution moment that happens after the main character succeeds or fails at overcoming the primary antagonist and accomplishing the main character's goal. Describe what happens during your **resolution.**

Winter is satisfied by the investigation into Grundhoffer's conduct, more females come forward with evidence of his misconduct and there is a court martial in country resulting in Grundhoffer's reduction in rank and expulsion from the country to serve time in Leavenworth.

NOTES: