

Week 4 | Due Sunday, April 3 | 3-4 hours

Facilitator Guide

Objective:

Students will create a first outline of their story using a story spine.

Materials:

Blank Paper and pen or pencil. A printout of the story spine outline could be helpful.

Overview:

1 Kickoff video (Introduction to Story Spine)

4 Story Exercises (Group)

1 Advice video (on Story Structure)

1 Deliverable (Group)

Lesson:

Kickoff Video: Introduction to Story Spine

Exercise 1: Theme (20 mins)

Part A: Identify the theme of three of your favorite stories.

Part B: Brainstorm ideas for the moral of your own story. For ideas, return to the needs of your main character(s) from Week 2.

Exercise 2: Act 1 (30 mins)

Think about the things you want to present in Act 1 of your own story: consider who, what, where, and when.

Remember that the primary focus of Act 1 is to establish setting, character, and inciting incident.

Try summarizing each step of Act 1 in a sentence:

1. Once upon a time...
2. Every day...
3. Until one day...

Exercise 3: Act 2 (30 mins)

Now develop the information you want to present in Act 2 of your own story. Consider the following:

- What is the goal of your main character(s) at the start of Act 2?
- Does your character reach a low point? If so, why?
- When and how does your character learn something new or realize their needs?

Try summarizing each step of Act 2 in a sentence:

4. Because of that...
5. Because of that...
6. Because of that...

Exercise 4: Act 3 (30 minutes)

Now, develop the information you want to present in Act 3 of your own story. Here are some questions to think about:

- What is the crisis? This will appear in your "Until finally..." section.
- How will it be resolved?
- How will the main character demonstrate that they've changed? This will appear in your "And ever since then..." section.
- What is the moral of your story?

Try summarizing each step of Act 3 in a sentence:

7. Until finally...

8. And ever since then...

The moral of the story is...

Exercise 5: Advice Video on story structure from 4 Pixarians

Week 4 Deliverable: Story Spine (1 hour)

Once you come up with a story that your team likes, draw a visual for each step in the Story Spine, and turn it into a short video like this.

Don't worry if your drawings are rough, you'll be redrawing these frames later.