

## Week 4 | Exercise 1: Introduction to Story Spine

The rest of the exercises will help you create the story spine for your own story.

As a warm up try to fit one of your favorite movies into a story spine:

**Story Spine:**

1. Once upon a time...
2. Every day...
3. Until one day...
4. Because of that...
5. Because of that...
6. Because of that...
7. Until finally...
8. And ever since then...

The moral of the story is....

## Week 4 | Exercise 2: Theme

Brainstorm ideas for the moral in your own story (return to the needs of your main character from the Character lesson for ideas)

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## Week 4 | Exercise 3: Act 1

Think about what you want to present in the first act of your own story.

- Ask yourself Who/What/When/Where
- Try fitting it into the first three steps story spine, and flesh each step out with 2-4 sentences if it helps

**ACT 1:**

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

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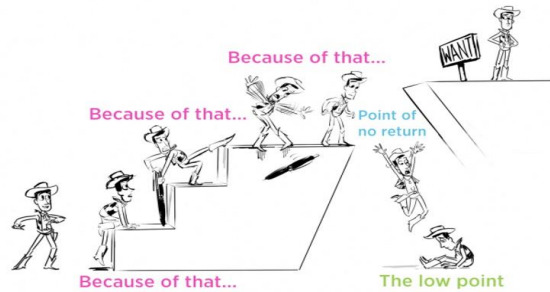
### Week 4 | Exercise 4: Act 2

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

- What is the goal of your main character(s) at the start of Act 2?
- Does your character reach a low point, and if so, why?
- Describe the point of no return or turning point where your character learns something new and realizes their needs.

Try fitting this into the Act 2 steps of the story spine (fill each step out with 2-4 sentences if it helps)

**ACT 2:** 4. Because of that...  
5. Because of that...  
6. Because of that...



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## Week 4 | Exercise 5: Act 3

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

- What is the crisis? ("step 7 "until finally..." is the crisis)
- How could it be resolved?
- How will the main character demonstrate that they learned what they needed? (step 8 "and ever since then")
- What is the theme or moral?

**ACT 3:** 7. Until finally...  
8. And ever since then...  
The moral of the story is....

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## Week 4 | Final Assignment: Story Spine

Once you come up with a story spine for your story that your team likes, draw or find an image for each step in the story spine and turn it into a short video. Don't worry if the images are very rough, you'll redraw these frames in later weeks.