

# Narrative Scene Structure Basics

**Protagonist:** The main character. He or she has a goal—something he or she wants.

**Antagonist:** The person or obstacle standing in the way of the goal that creates conflict.

**Supporting Characters:** Either help or hinder the protagonist in achieving his or her goal.

**Character Beat:** A change in action or behavior by a character, usually the protagonist. Often, this takes the form of another tactic for achieving the goal.

**Want vs. Need:** A character begins a scene **wanting** something, but ends up getting what he or she **needs**. This is the **twist** of a well-mounted scene with good conflict and an unexpected but satisfying resolution. Try to think of your character's **want** or **need** in each scene, and in the film as a whole.