

Synopsis – presented by Sandy Steen

No more than 3 pages – 2.5 better.

Query letter – single space.

Synopsis – double space.

Story line compared to plot

Story line tells what happens, plot goes deeper, multiple layers – basis of synopsis.

Has to include characterization and motivation.

Characterization vital, as is motivation.

Two main forms – summary, informal, like plot. Hook paragraph should start every synopsis. Think back blurb of your book.

Block outline – Sandy prefers this one.

Very structured.

Same info – look at setting, characterization of major chars, identify relationship to major chars and the part they play in the plot.

Compass Characterization

North – strong core central values.

South – shady side of North, tell the truth even if it causes a friend to go to jail, a woman who work with right to life may have had an abortion as a teen.

East – supportive traits.

West – fatal flaw, like controlling so much he drives family away etc.

Synopsis can help you find holes in your story.

Have to include the conflict – both external and internal.

Crisis/Climax – highest emotional point

Resolution – unravel all the loose ends, tie up all loose ends, etc.

Take your story and pick the most important events and work through those, cut down your synopsis from 5 to 3 pages.

Motivate your characters

Murder – at the beginning

Mishap – mistake, something the murderer left behind, McGuffin, witness.

Muddle – her tries to solve murder

Moment of Truth – confront killer.

Romance:

Meeting – meet cute

Mishap – they have a conflict

Muddle – events intensify the conflict

Moment of Truth – issues resolved.

All these in 3 pages.