



Structuring Your Synopsis

Publishers and agents will usually ask for a synopsis when you query your novel. A synopsis is a short summary of your novel that outlines your novel's entire narrative arc.

[Title of Novel]
by [your name]
[Genre]

Paragraph 1: Introduce your main character, their goal, the reason for this goal, the consequence of failure and the deadline.

Blank writing area for Paragraph 1.

Paragraph 2: Write about an action the main character takes to achieve their goal, what stands in their way, and how they overcome it.

Blank writing area for Paragraph 2.

Paragraph 3: Introduce another obstacle and explain how the main character overcomes it.

Blank writing area for Paragraph 3.

Paragraph 4: This is your character's black moment. What happens to knock them down, and what convinces them to redouble their efforts?

Paragraph 5: This is your novel's climax. Does your character rally and defeat the antagonist, or are they defeated?

Paragraph 6: You should now show how your novel ends. How have you resolved all the conflict? What has your character learned?

A statement about whether the novel is a standalone or part of a series.

Congratulations on finishing your first draft of your synopsis! Now, you need to edit and review. While you're doing this, you should keep a few things in mind:

- Try to cut it down to 800 words (one page, single spaced).
- Write in 3rd-person, present tense.
- Make sure there are no spelling or grammar mistakes.

Need more help with your synopsis? Visit my 'Services' page to learn more.