

Instructions

1. **Draw a line** that will represent the story.
2. Identify the **key event**, which may be the part that makes you remember the story so well. It is usually the point on which the rest of the story depends.

Tip: Look for the point of change in the story's protagonist—a revelation, a change in stakes, a gain or loss—whether the change belongs to you or someone else.
3. Identify the **leading events** by searching your memory and finding as many events that preceded the *key event* as possible. You are looking for events that both support your intention and have a causal relationship to the key event.

Tip: It's easier to begin with events that you remember happening immediately before the *key event* and work backward. We call these *leading events* because they are events that led to the key event.
4. Finally, identify the **consequential events**. These are the events that occurred as a result of the key event (and all the events that led up to the key event).

Tips: Stay focused on your intent. Avoid overreaching by attributing the cause of circumstantial incidents to the key event. Concentrate on what happened as opposed to what did not happen. It's often impossible to say that an event did not occur because of something else.

