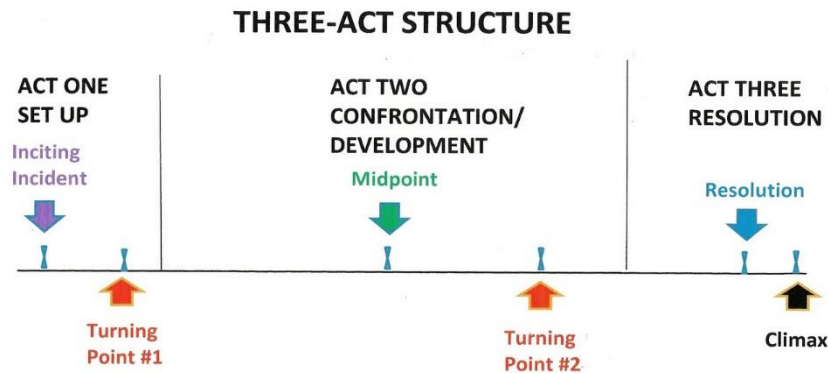


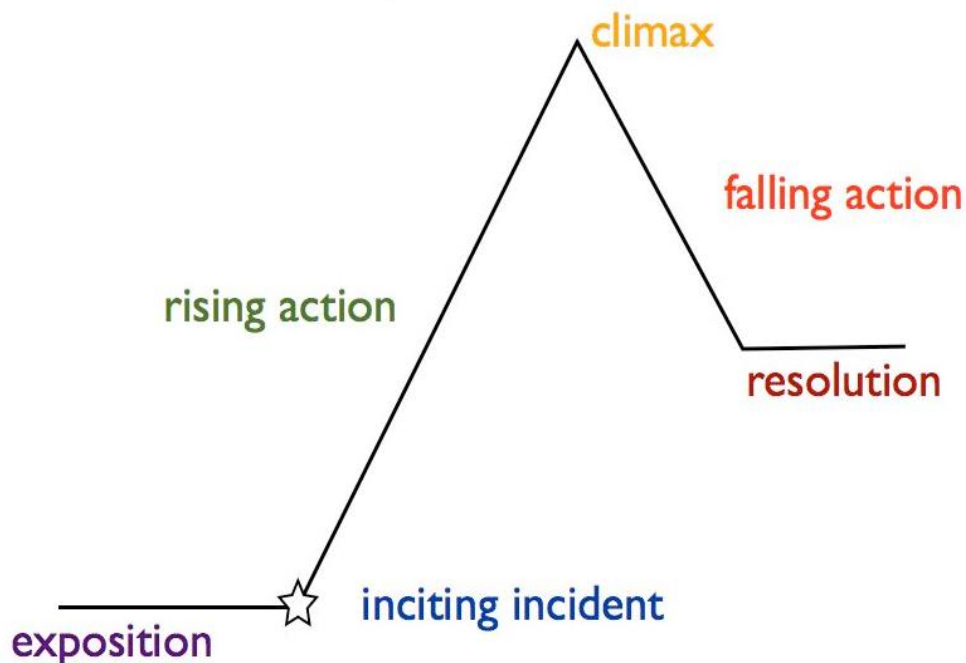
THE THREE ACT STRUCTURE

The 3-act structure is a common form of storytelling. With a memoir, you already have all the information. It's a matter of structuring it in a way that makes sense to the reader. According to the artist Michelangelo, his sculpture "David" was always there in his head; Michelangelo simply freed him. The artist had a huge chunk of marble and he carved away until he liberated his subject. That is memoir: whittling away the excess.

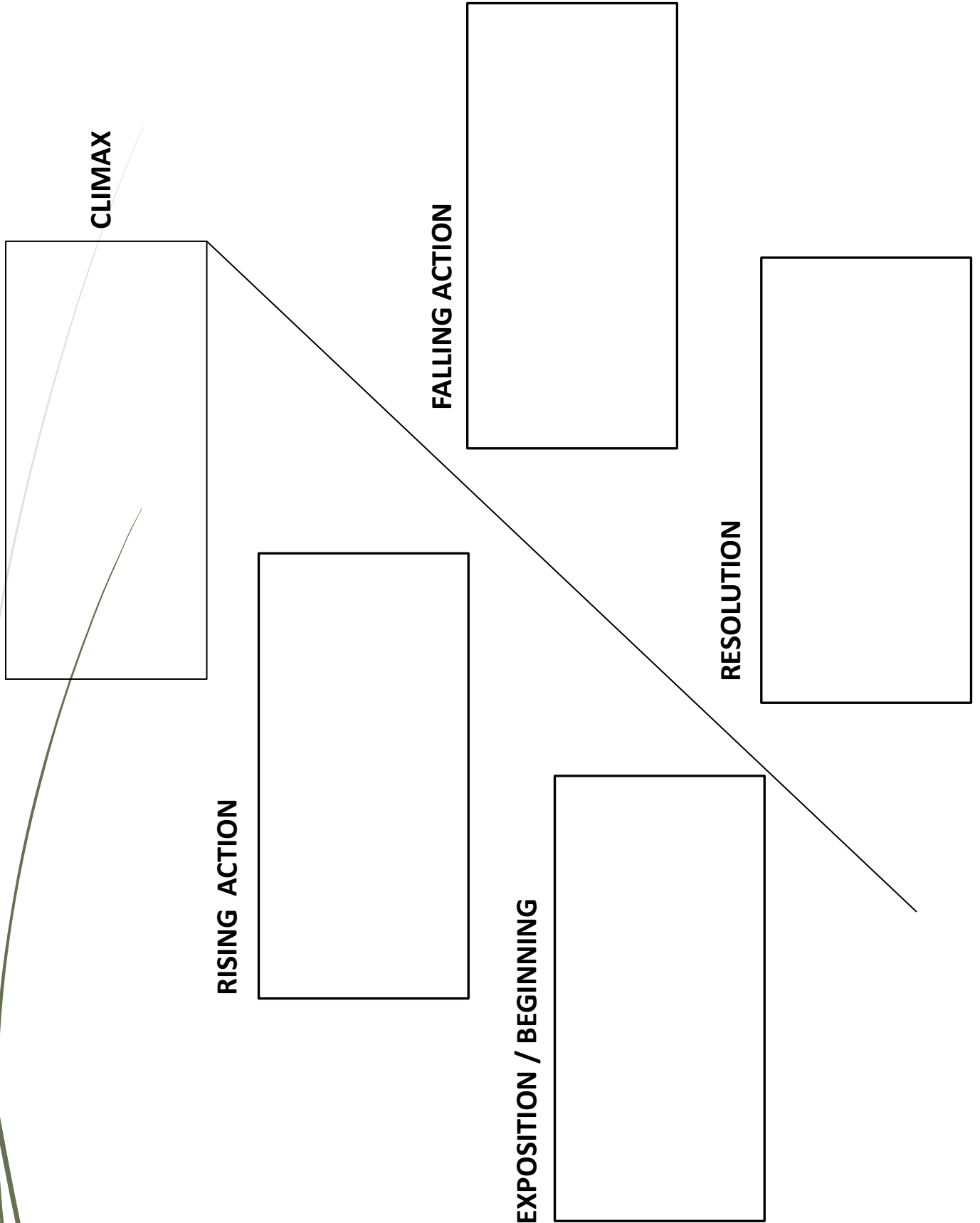


THE STORY EVOLVES IN 3 PARTS – but will vary a bit depending on the type of story you are telling.

- In Act One, you set the scene and introduce your audience to the characters, the setting, and the seeds of conflict.
- In Act Two, your characters grow and change in response to conflicts and circumstances. They set about trying to resolve the Problem. Usually, the conflict will escalate to a climax.
- In Act Three, characters resolve the Problem and the story ends.



PLOT DIAGRAM TEMPLATE



THE STORY CIRCLE

There are lots of ways to layout your story, but I recommend the *Story Circle*. We define eight steps which, to some extent, will coincide with your standard plot points. These are comprised of basic human motivations, actions, and consequences, which you describe on a circle. This works for memoir or fiction. Below is a Story Circle with approximate ACTs

