Appendix IV.1.14

Plot Structure Self Edit

Step One:
Take out your homework. Rewrite your play into 3-6 sentences, using action verbs. Now isolate all the verbs you used in the 3-6 sentences. How many of the verbs were actions performed by people to get what they wanted? Did they affect other people in the story? Did they cause further actions to take place?

Step Two:
Now that you are sure that each action in your play causes a reaction which in turn causes a reaction and each action is linked to the protagonist's goal, you will make sure your story fits into a compelling structure. Using the 3-6 action verb sentences, highlight/underline the beginning (inciting incident & point of attack, etc…) in one color. Next, highlight/underline the beginning (inciting incident & point of attack, etc…) in one color. Next, highlight/underline the middle (conflicting forces, etc…) with a different color. Finally, highlight/underline the end (climax followed by resolution) with a third color.