**STRUCTURE OF A TRAGEDY**

**Act 1 – EXPOSITION**

* The situation and important characters are introduced
* The groundwork for the plot is laid
* The complications in the play are made known

**Act 2 – DEVELOPMENT**

* Plot and characters are further developed
* New characters are introduced

**Act 3 – CLIMAX**

* This is the high rising action of the play (Almost ALWAYS Act 3. Scene 2 in Shakespeare plays)
* Reversal of fortune for the protagonist

**Act 4 – CONSEQUENCE**

* Protagonist’s situation gets progressively worse
* Presents the consequences of earlier actions and decisions
* The antagonist plunges deeper and deeper into their crime or wrongdoing.

**Act 5 – CONCULSION**

* Plot is resolved and works to a final close
* Justice prevails and order is restored (usually through the death of the protagonist).