A narrative arc is a broad sketch of the high and low points of the dramatic developments, including key turning points and moments of tension within.

The pattern for the narrative arc was largely handed down from the Greek tradition in drama. So many plays today are written in three acts because the pattern reflects the three-stage nature of the traditional narrative arc: Exposition yields Rising Action yields Resolution
Exposition: Background material about the characters, setting, and dramatic situation with which the author introduces the essentials of the story to the reader.

*Here you are establishing your characters, setting and mood.

Rising Action: The part of the story, including exposition, in which the tension rises. Rising action builds to its highest point of tension at the story’s climax.

* Here you have a gradual building of tension in your main conflict of: character vs. character, character vs. self, character vs. nature, or character vs. society.

Resolution: The conclusion of the story. The resolution includes the story’s action after the climax until the end of the story.

* Here the essential question is usually answered: How did the protagonist resolve his or her conflict?
Narrative Arc:

1. Exposition

2. Rising Action

3. Climax

4. Falling Action

5. Resolution

Tension

Story Progression
A good story needs to:
* start with a bang
* quickly accelerate to a level of action
* have moments of drama and suspense that keep rising in intensity
* sustain a high pitch
* level off
* gradually come down to earth in an emotionally satisfying closure and denouement
Theme: The story’s main ideas—the “message” that the author intends to communicate by telling the story. Themes are often universal truths that are suggested by the specifics in the story.

*Striving toward a goal
*Overcoming obstacles in pursuit of a goal
*Solving a mystery
*Resolving a problem
*Bringing order to chaos (return to equilibrium)
*The journey
*Flight and pursuit
*Coming of age (from innocence to experience)
*Personal growth