

SYNOPSIS

1. WHAT IT IS

A synopsis is a one-paragraph (5-8 sentence) prose summary of your film: who, what they want, what's in the way, how the conflict grows. Present tense, third person, no decoration. It hints at the ending without telling it scene by scene.

2. WHEN YOU NEED IT

It's the standard document for competitions, festivals, funding applications and production packages – usually the first thing a reader sees after the logline.

3. EXAMPLE

Cemal, the town's only butcher, loses his customers one by one to a giant supermarket that opens across the street. As he fills the day behind his empty counter, his son Emre comes to help; Cemal tells him there's no work, but the boy starts cleaning the glass anyway. Late in the afternoon, while Cemal teaches his son to zero the scales, the vest of the supermarket across the road slips out of Emre's bag. Cemal sees it and says nothing; he only asks how much they pay. At night, as the shutter comes down, father and son part without a single word for each other. Cemal goes back into the dark shop and puts the vest his son forgot into the drawer where he keeps his knives.

4. COMMON MISTAKES

- × A list of scenes ("First... then... then...") – a synopsis is a dramatic flow, not a chronology.
- × Adjectives instead of events ("a heart-wrenching journey") – write what actually happens.
- × Every supporting character – tell the main fight.

BLANK SHORT SYNOPSIS TEMPLATE

[CHARACTER + tag], when [EVENT], faces
[FIRST LOSS / THREAT]. (1-2 sentences)

Fighting for [GOAL], they collide with
[OBSTACLE / OPPOSING FORCE]; [FLAW / INNER
OBSTACLE] makes it harder. (2-3 sentences)

escalation + price)

When [TIME PRESSURE / THRESHOLD] arrives,
[THE REAL QUESTION THEY HAVE TO FACE].
(1-2 sentences: hint at the ending – let the
direction be felt, don't write the answer.)

Check: ☐ 5-8 sentences ☐ Present tense
☐ Not a list of scenes ☐ One main fight
☐ Ending hinted, not announced

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