

How to Troubleshoot and Rewrite a Scene

(With as little Downstorry Impact as Possible)

1 Write a Problem Statement

The Problem Statement helps you zoom in on the problem you need to solve. Start with what you *think* is the problem and keep asking *Why* until you have uncovered the root problem. Then, write it in a single sentence.

Why?
Why?
Why?
Why?
Why?

Gut the scene.
Keep only what
moves the plot.

2 Identify Outcomes to Keep

Identify outcomes in the problem scene that you need to keep in order to prevent having to rewrite the story from that point on.

3 Identify Outcomes to Add

Can you strengthen the relationships, establish greater villainy or advance the plot? Capture all ideas as bullet points.

Plot wish list goes
here. If you can dream
it, you can write it.

Be Brutal. Your story
will thank you. As
will your readers.

4 Identify Outcomes to Remove

Identify the mistakes with the scene, or the unworkable plot points that you need to remove, and capture them as bullets as well.

5 Write Replacement Scene

Finally, write a replacement scene that has all the outcomes you wanted to keep, all the outcomes you wanted to add, and none of the outcomes you wanted to remove.

Remove and replace.
Just like changing a
tire. But less dirty.

Original Blog Post at

<http://wp.me/p3sm87-17A>

www.tianevitt.com

6 Write Replacement Scene

You just cut a major scene out of your story and replaced it. No matter how surgical your excision was, it is going to bleed. Read and revise all subsequent scenes. to the very end.