Overview / Outline of Your Story’s Arc

Your Overview / Outline of Your Story’s Arc is where you describe the overall sequence of the story you’re going to tell. If your interview and b-roll logs are the “puzzle pieces”, this document is the cover of the puzzle box, which shows how things will look when it all comes together. Your overview / outline will:

* Begin with your working title and your vision / purpose statement.
* Outline / describe the parts of the story in the order they’ll occur (without getting too detailed).
* Be no more than a single page.

Remember the [*Denali: A Tribute to Man’s Best Friend*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2zQbsEGh_Q), the short film we watched back in September when we first met at Middlebury College? Here’s what an Overview / Outline might have looked like for that film.

**Denali: A Tribute to Man’s Best Friend**

**Purpose / Vision**: We’ve created this film to startle people into understanding just how deeply meaningful our relationships can be with those we love and the natural world, when we keep our minds and hearts open to both. We want our audience to be so moved by this story that they take stock of what really matters in life--the relationships in their lives & the wonder of the natural world--and rekindle their commitment to nourishing both. We’re looking to inspire our audience to be more grateful for and attentive to what is good in their lives.

**Opening / Hook**

* We’ll begin with Denali (dog) & Ben (dog owner) at a spectacular beach where they’re going surfing / swimming, with the twist that Denali will be narrating the story. This humorous twist shifts, though, when Denali shares that he thinks Ben knows that Denali is dying because he keeps bringing Denali to all of their favorite places that they’ve been together.

**Backstory**

* Denali then narrates what it was like growing up with Ben--”the good old days”.
  + Traveling with Ben on his photoshoots.
  + Hanging out with Ben’s friends in amazing places.
  + How Denali became a model.
* Denali describes Ben’s cancer.
  + How they found out: Joshua tree trip when Ben collapses.
  + Denali described how bad he felt that Ben had to start pooping in a bag (funny and poignant)
  + Denali describes how the insurance company denied the claim and how we dreamed of biting them all to give them rabies (again, funny and poignant).
* Ben gets better
  + Delani describes how grateful he is that Ben got better.
  + Delani can’t imagine going through his own cancer battle without Ben.
  + Denali tries to be strong for Ben, just like Ben did for him back when he was sick.

**Denali’s Last Night**

* This scene returns to the opening setting / beach, but a sunset.
* Denali describes Ben letting him sleep on his chest.
* Denali describes a scientist who studied dogs and thought we could learn a lot from them, who wrote, “When someone you love walks through the door, even if it happens five times a day, you should go totally insane with joy.”