

NXTLVL INTERACTIVE, LLC - Traditional 22 - 24 Minute Pilot Beat Sheet

A traditional beat sheet outlines the key plot points and structure of a 22-24-minute episodic television pilot. This format is commonly used in the industry as a guide to crafting compelling storytelling. **KEEP IN MIND** this is not the only way to achieve your vision, however it is crucial to fully understand the rules, before deciding to break them.

Here's a breakdown of the beat sheet:

1. Teaser (1-2 minutes):
 - Introduce a short, engaging scene that hooks the audience and sets the tone of the show.
 - Present an intriguing event or conflict that grabs the viewers' attention.
2. Opening Act (4-5 minutes):
 - Establish the main characters and their relationships.
 - Set up the protagonist's ordinary world and their goals/desires.
 - Introduce the central conflict or problem that the protagonist will face.
3. Inciting Incident (1-2 minutes):
 - An event occurs that disrupts the protagonist's ordinary life.
 - The inciting incident sets the main story in motion and sparks the protagonist's journey.
4. First Plot Point (4-5 minutes):
 - The protagonist is forced to make a decision or take action in response to the inciting incident.
 - This decision propels the protagonist into the main conflict and introduces the main story goal.
5. Rising Action (4-5 minutes):
 - The protagonist encounters challenges, obstacles, and opponents.
 - New information is revealed, and the stakes are raised.
 - Secondary characters and subplots are developed.
6. Midpoint (2-3 minutes):
 - A significant event or realization that shifts the direction of the story.
 - The protagonist makes a major discovery or undergoes a transformation.
7. Low Point (1-2 minutes):
 - The protagonist faces a setback or major obstacle, leading to a moment of doubt or failure.
 - All hope seems lost, and the situation appears dire.
8. Second Plot Point (1-2 minutes):
 - A new piece of information or event that propels the story towards the climax.
 - The protagonist finds renewed determination or a new plan to confront the main conflict.
9. Climax (2-3 minutes):

- The highest point of tension and conflict in the story.
- The protagonist confronts the main obstacle or antagonist head-on.
- The main story goal is achieved, or a significant turning point occurs.

10. Wrap-up (2-3 minutes):

- Tie up loose ends from the episode's story arc.
- Provide closure for the pilot's events while leaving room for future episodes.
- Set up potential storylines for future episodes.

11. Closing Scene (1-2 minutes):

- The final scene of the pilot that leaves the audience with a lasting impression.
- This scene may set up a cliffhanger or hint at what's to come in the series.

Timing can vary slightly, but this beat sheet provides a general structure for a 22-24 minute episodic television pilot. Adapt it to suit the needs of your specific show and storyline. Keep in mind that this is just a general guide, and the beat sheet can be adjusted to suit the specific needs and genre of your episodic television pilot. Happy writing!