I begin by breaking apart my "thumbnail sketch" into a linear outline. I look for holes in the timeline and fill those in.

1. One of the recipients of the Universal Living Wage feels purposeless.

2. Machines have replaced so many jobs that he wonders why he even exists.

3. When he sees an ad for an Artisanal Trucking company, he decides to sign up to experience the glamour of the vehicular age. <e>

4. Training

5. Gets a truck

6. Gets his first assignment

7. Leaves town.

8. While he's on the road, he hits and

9. Stops the truck

10. Gets out and goes back to the dog.

11. Watches dog die.

12. And takes his error as proof that maybe machines are better than people and specifically, better than him.

13. Hears puppies whining from the side of the road.

14. He feels even worse when he realizes that there are puppies.

15. One of the puppies darts into traffic.

16. Returning to the road, he takes the puppies and

17. tries to find homes for them at each of his stops.

18. Only one remains, which he keeps because its unconditional love makes him realize that he is special enough.</c></e>

Then I start to compress that linear timeline into actual scenes.

One of the recipients of the Universal Living Wage feels purposeless. Machines have replaced so many jobs that he wonders why he even exists. When he sees an ad for an Artisanal Trucking company, he decides to sign up to experience the glamour of the vehicular age. <e>

Training

Gets a truck

Gets his first assignment

Leaves town.

1. While he's on the road, he hits a dog. Stops the truck. Gets out and goes back to the dog. Watches dog die. And takes his error as proof that maybe machines are better than people and specifically, better than him. Hears puppies whining from the side of the road. He feels even worse when he realizes that there are puppies. One of the puppies darts into traffic. Returning to the road, he takes the puppies with him.
2. tries to find homes for them at each of his stops.
3. Stop 2
4. Stop 3. Only one remains, which he keeps because its unconditional love makes him realize that he is special enough.</c></e>

Once I know what the scenes are, I start to flesh them out with the details that I'll need to get across to the reader.

1. While he's on the road, he hits a dog. Stops the truck. Gets out and goes back to the dog. Watches dog die. And takes his error as proof that maybe machines are better than people and specifically, better than him. Hears puppies whining from the side of the road. He feels even worse when he realizes that there are puppies. One of the puppies darts into traffic. Returning to the road, he takes the puppies with him.
   a. What the principle action of the scene is. What it's doing to advance the plot. Driving. Hits a dog.
   b. Where it takes place. - On the interstate
   c. Who is present - Dude. Dog. Puppies. Lots of self-driving cars/trucks around.
   d. Time of day & mood - Early evening. Satisfied then despair.
   e. What does your main character want? - Purpose
2. tries to find homes for them at each of his stops.
3. Stop 2
4. Stop 3. Only one remains, which he keeps because its unconditional love makes him realize that he is special enough.</c></e>

Further compression, if necessary.

1. Dude is driving down the open road, feeling like he's finally getting a handle on life. All the self-driving cars and automation, mean that there's very little for people to do. Artisanal trucking has given back his sense of purpose. Then he hits a dog. Horrified, he pulls the truck out of traffic and races back. The dog dies as he is trying to carry it back

to the truck. He hears puppies whining from the side of the road. He feels even worse when he realizes that there are puppies. One of the puppies darts into traffic. Returning to the road, he takes the puppies with him.

2. At a gas station, he offers a puppy to the attendant.