1. **Make a copy of this!**

2. **Do not read ahead. Wait for MRK to walk you through.**

3. **Write down gee-whiz idea.** -Artisanal Truck driver

4. **Where does it happen?** - general scenic location.

   a. Pacific Northwest

   b. Truck stop in Portland

   c. Diner

   d. Colony planet

   e. Canada - ice roads

   f. Vineyard

5. **Characters who would be there (general list).** (Look for characters that aren't as obvious — look for people across the socio-economic spectrum, because any event affects people differently depending on the resources they have.)

   a. **Trucker**

   b. Waitress

   c. **Vinter**

   d. Hitchhiker

   e. **Dog**

   f. Cop

   g. Mom

   h. Lot lizard

6. **From the list, pick three you want to focus on.** (Important to trust yourself as an audience member, because the first person you need to please is yourself.)

7. You've picked the three you want to spend time with. **What is their goal?**

   a. Trucker - Wants to recreate the glamour of the vehicular age

      i. Uses driving as zen meditation. Become one with the road.

8. **Pick the goal that is most compelling to you.** That character who has it is your main character.

        a.   Artisanal Trucker!

9. **Then ask why the character wants that.** Repeat until you've reached a deep desire. (i.e. to look good, not to diet).

        a.   Connected to the past. Nostalgia. Wants to seem hip. Wants to be different. **Wants to be special.**

10. **List what MC character has at stake.** "Stake" is a word a lot of people misunderstand — it is what will happen to them if they fail at what they are trying to do. For instance, Captain of sailing ship, every time he takes a risk is to get a fleet of ships, but what he has at stake is that if he takes a risky route to earn more money, his ship could sink and he could lose everything. Can write down a couple of things down as you're trying to sort this out.

        a.   Afraid he's replaceable.

11. **Choose the primary stake for your MC character**.

12. Go back to what the MC character wants. **What is stopping the character from achieving their desires?** Why can't they have what they want? -- Self-driving cars. Getting jobs. Road construction. Disapproval of society. Truck breaks down. **Hits a dog.**

13. **What is the most interesting thing standing in the way of your POV character?**

14. **What is your MC's plan to get what they want?** - Find help. Considers abandoning. Dog is dead, but has puppies, will find home for puppies en route.

15. W**rite up 1-3 sentences summing up the decision you have made for your POV character**.

        a.   An artisanal truck driver, who feels threatened by how machines have replaced so many jobs, wants to revive the glamour of the vehicular age. His trip down "memory lane" goes wrong when he hits a dog, killing it and raising the doubt that maybe machines are better than people.

16. **Identify the MACE quotient element** based on the conflict you've most connect with and simplify to one element.
Milieu – Environment-centered story (entering/leaving specific, often exotic, location). Examples: Gulliver's Travels. Parts of Hunger Games (enters capital, enters game grounds, leaves game grounds, leaves capital). Is your main character trapped somewhere? Is something wrong with the place that they are in?

answer – Mystery-centered story (a question the MC & reader both try to discover). Examples: Sherlock Holmes, Matlock. Are they trying to find something?

Character – Internally-driven story (character dissatisfied with themselves). Examples: Most romance rom-com movies, Finn's arc in Star Wars 7? Are they unhappy with an aspect of self?

Event – Externally-driven story (something happened to disrupt status quo/cause chaos). Examples: Most sci-fi or action movies (Armageddon, Jurassic Park, Rey's arc in Star Wars 7, etc.) Has something disrupted their status quo?

a. An artisanal truck driver, who feels threatened by how machines have replaced so many jobs, wants to revive the glamour of the vehicular age. But he worries that maybe machines are better than people and specifically, better than him.

17. Looking at the MACE quotient, use that to determine where the story begins and ends and explicitly add both to the 1-3 sentence summary.

a. 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 Artisanl Trucking company, he decides to sign up to experience the glamour of the vehicular age. But he worries that maybe machines are better than people and specifically, better than him. After many struggles, he finally realizes that he is special enough.

b. Trucker hits and kills dog en route. Dog has puppies. Needs to find homes for puppies.

c. Starts: Hitting dog.

d. Ends: Homes for all the puppies.

18. <c>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 Artisanl Trucking company, he decides to sign up to experience the glamour of the vehicular age. <e> While he's on the road, he hits and kills a dog. And takes his error as proof that maybe machines are better than people and specifically, better than him. He feels even worse when he realizes that there are puppies. Returning to the road, he takes the puppies and tries to find homes for them at each of his stops. Only one remains, which he keeps because its unconditional love makes him realize that he is special enough.</c></e>