

OUTLINING LAB – REVISION #2 – HANDOUT #1 MORE DOCUMENTS

Definitions of The One-Liner, One-Sentence Synopsis, and Logline

A **one liner** is a one sentence indication of the main character's want.

A **one-sentence synopsis** encapsulates the musical's storyline in a single sentence.

A **logline** is a one sentence/phrase to be used as a marketing tool to entice viewers or potential producers.

One liners do not tell the story; they describe the main character's want, but do not allude to any storyline.

The **one-sentence synopsis** indicates the main storyline.

The **logline** might or might not hint at the story; its main purpose is to put some advertising spin on the musical; a logline is something you might read in TV Guide, or in an advertising copy about the musical. It is meant to excite and interest a potential audience member. It needs to give a whiff of the storyline, and it needs to make the show interesting. If the show's a comedy, it needs to give an indication of the tone or the topic of the show which will make an audience laugh. If it's a serious show, it needs to hint at the drama.

Some examples:

Sweeney Todd:

One liner: Sweeney Todd wants to revenge the wrongs perpetrated against his wife.

One-sentence synopsis: Sweeney Todd exacts revenge upon the corrupt Judge who ruined his wife.

Logline: The dark tale of a demon barber bent on revenge.

The Music Man

One liner: Con man Harold Hill wants to make a quick con and get out of town.

One-sentence synopsis: Con man Harold Hill dupes a small Iowa town into buying seventy-six trombones for a boys' band.

Logline: Con man Harold Hill finds his match in a local librarian.

Gypsy

One liner: Mama Rose wants her child to be a star.

One-sentence synopsis: Mama Rose stops at nothing to make her child a vaudeville star.

Logline: Brassy stage mother paves the way for Gypsy Rose Lee.