**PLOT: TERMINOLOGY**

(Goddard Residency Workshops

with Paul Selig/Deb Brevoort)

1. **Given Circumstances**: Who? What? When? Where? Why? And How?; all action springs from these with dramatic effect; details unfold throughout the story revealing plot lines

2. **Dramatic Set-Ups:** creating obstacles with high stake against the MC’s goal; drives the story into dilemma and deep crisis points

3. **Inciting Incident:** specific action moving characters forward along plot lines provoking conflict; adds suspense with elements of surprise within the structure of Given Circumstances

4. **Dramatic Question:** launched by the Inciting Incident and answered in Resolution

5. **Plot Point**: event that twists/turns the plot into a surprising direction (Character reversals)

6. **Dramatic Clock:** timetable creating urgency in specific scene; quickens the plot’s pace

7. **Episodic structure:** multiple story lines with seemingly unrelated events

8. **Narrative Arcs:** linear forward motion of main character (Journey of Change), plot ( 5 steps in Aristotle’s Poetics from exposition to resolution) and imagery (repeated patterns throughout the work)

9. **Obligatory Scene**: scene that MUST happen; a coming together of MC (Main Character) and opposing forces into Resolution; answers Dramatic Question; alters MC’s destiny or dynamics with other characters; emotionally powerful; contains revelation, complication, reversal, ironic twist, new meaning for old events; must match main conflict as solution; occurs at or near end of story

10. **Aristotle’s Poetics:** classical form is one action, one time, one place; five classical elements

A. *Exposition:* sets up story; background narratives; introduces setting and MC

B. *Rising Action:* changes status quo where MC must contend with obstacles and conflict through crisis points

C. *Climax:* single moment; highest point of suspense

D. *Falling Action:* movement towards tying up loose ends

E. *Denouement (Resolution):* all conflicts solved in believable manner