How To Write a Treatment

This two page document should read like a short story and be written in the present tense. It should present the entire story including the ending, and use some key scenes and dialogue from the screenplay it is based on.

What Should Be in the Treatment?

1. A Working title
2. A short logline (a one-sentence summary of your script. See below.)
3. Introduction to key characters
4. Who, what, when, why and where
5. Act 1 in one to three paragraphs. Set the scene, dramatize the main conflicts
6. Act 2 in two to six paragraphs. Should dramatize how the conflicts introduced in Act 1 lead to a crisis
7. Act 3 in one to three paragraphs. Dramatize the final conflict and resolution

Here are three questions to ask yourself as you write your logline:

1. Who is the main character and what does he or she want?
2. Who (villain) or what is standing in the way of the main character?
3. What makes this story unique?

Use action words when writing your logline. Film captures the actions of characters. Add descriptive words to create an image that will stay in the mind of your reader.