



NOW YOU TRY: ANALYZE PLOT STRUCTURE

To get the hang of how a mystery works, analyze the plot of a standard, one-hour crime show. These tend to be structured like mystery novels. They begin with a dramatic opening, and the commercial breaks impose a four-part structure. Usually there's a plot twist before each commercial. Often they end after the final dramatic scene, dispensing with a coda.

Watch a show and analyze the structure of the plot by filling out this scorecard:

	DESCRIPTION	MOST LIKELY SUSPECT AT THE COMMERCIAL BREAK
Opening scene: short scene at the very beginning, before the first commercial		
Plot twist before the next commercial break		
Plot twist before the next commercial break		
Plot twist before the next commercial break		
Final climax: final plot twist and resolution		