The 1-Hour Action/Drama Beatsheet usually is three or four single-spaced pages. It breaks down the storyline by acts and scenes. The "acts" are not the same as those in the traditional three act structure of storytelling. These acts are those dictated by the placement of commercial breaks when the finished episode is broadcast.

On broadcast networks and cable stations the most common act breakdown is as follows:

* Teaser

A short segment usually consisting of only one or two scenes in which the basic problem faced by the characters is presented in a provocative or "teasing" way, most often as a kind of cliff-hanger to which the audience reacts by thinking: "Whoa! What're they gonna do about that?"

* Act One

A six or seven scene segment of rising action building to a climax based on an increase in the severity or intensity of the problem presented in the Teaser, or on the addition of a new problem, usually for one of the series' regular characters.

more...
* Act Two

A six or seven scene segment in which more complications are added to the problem or problems, building to a climax, usually of imminent peril to one of the series' regular characters or two a new character for whom the audience has sympathy.

* Act Three

A five or six scene segment in which the problem presented at the end of Act Two is solved and the series' regular character or characters who have been working on the original problem usually discover they have to regroup and focus their efforts in an entirely new direction.

* Act Four

A four or five scene segment that is the climax of the entire piece, usually beginning with the discovery of a solution to the problem and then presenting the application of that solution—which often goes wrong so that the last scene is an improvisation that just manages to do the trick.
*Tag

A short scene in which loose ends are wrapped up and the series' regulars celebrate their victory and/or attend to continuing personal problems.

Note: Some shows present the Teaser as the first sequence of scenes in Act One instead of separating it by a commercial break. Other shows forgo the Teaser and use a montage of "Previously on Whatever" instead. Also, some shows present the Tag as the last scene in Act Four instead of setting it off by a commercial break.