Here is the story structure for the *Joker* screenplay:

**EXPOSITION Page \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Arthur Fleck is a clown-worker in his 30’s with a neurological disease that causes him to laugh uncontrollably. Years prior, he was admitted to an asylum for the insane. Now, he’s heavily medicated and has to meet with a counsellor who doesn’t care much for him.

**INCITING INCIDENT Page \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

While working as a street-performer, Arthur is mugged by a group of teenage boys, and loses the ‘sign’ he was given to advertise business. A co-worker, Randall, gives him a gun for protection.

**PLOT BUILDING Page \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Arthur’s mother Penny desperately yearns to hear from her former boss Thomas Wayne, who she believes owes them help. Arthur dreams that one day he’ll be admired and respected just like late-night TV host Murray Franklin is, so he pursues a relationship with a woman named Sophie.

**RISING ACTION Page \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

After dropping Randal’s gun during a performance at a children’s hospital, Arthur is fired. He takes the subway home where he’s harassed and beaten by three Wayne Industry employees. In a fit of rage, Arthur shoots and kills them all.

**MIDPOINT Page \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Arthur learns that Thomas Wayne is his father, which throws him into an identity crisis. He visits Wayne manor with the hope of talking with Thomas, but instead, gets into a confrontation with Alfred, who says that his mother Penny is “delusional” for saying the two were ever romantically involved.

**PLOT BUILDING TWO Page \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Police detectives question Penny about the subway murders, which causes her to faint. While monitoring her at the hospital, Arthur watches Murray Franklin on TV, who mocks his comedy routine. Arthur confronts Thomas, who says that his mother was admitted to Arkham Asylum for the criminally insane 30 years ago.

**BUILD UP Page \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Arthur receives an invitation to appear on The Murray Franklin show, which he accepts. Penny’s file reveals that Arthur was abused as a child. Desperate for support, Arthur goes to Sophie who doesn’t recognize him, showing that Arthur fabricated their relationship. In a manic state, Arthur kills his mother, and ‘disfigures’ himself to look more like a clown.

**CLIMAX Page \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Randall comes by the apartment to offer condolences for Penny’s death, but Arthur kills him. Upon leaving for the show, police try to arrest Arthur, but he’s able to obscure himself in the crowd of “clown” protesters.

**FINALE Page \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Arthur kills Murray Franklin live on air and is arrested. The riots outside have intensified- one protester kills Thomas and Martha Wayne- another group flips the police car Arthur is being transported in, ultimately freeing him. Arthur stands atop the crashed police car and incites the crowd to join in on the chaos.

**DENOUEMENT Page \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Arthur is detained at Arkham Asylum, and questioned by a doctor. When asked what he’s laughing about, he says that it’s a joke that she wouldn’t understand. Then, Arthur joyously runs around the insane ward while “That’s Life” plays in the background.