 Production Shooting Script – Mikey

Mikey Mendoza, 16, Queensland

| Segment | Format beats | Mikey’s story |
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| Hero introduction (approx. 0:30) | * Mikey introduces himself – a brief summation of who he is, where he comes from and what he does. * Mikey talks about where he is now, and teases back to the fact there’s been a dramatic change in his life, which leads us to the beginning of his MY24 journey. | Example needs to be in Mikey’s words:   * Hi, my name is Mikey. * I’m 16 years old, and I live on the Gold Coast! * Interesting/unusual fact about himself * Likes/dislikes * I’ve got one of the most amazing home lives anyone could ask for – full of family, love and support. But not that long ago, I was living in a situation with no school, no help and sometimes even no food. |
| Life before (approx. 1:30) | * Relationships to friends, family, attitude towards life, school, and so on * There is a focus on illustrating the aspects of his life that will come to be directly affected by his life-changing experience, and is a clear set-up for the forthcoming MY24. * Need to ensure the ‘Life before’ segment is clearly different from the ‘Pay-off segment’ and ‘Life now’ beats towards the end of the episode, so the sense of transformation of Mikey (both in terms of character and story) is clear. | Mikey’s life before his MY24 was hard. Both his mum and dad have mental illnesses, and so life at home for Mikey was pretty difficult.  Unfortunately, he was living with two dysfunctional parents in a house – one day, he even turned up at school with no socks on, no school bag, and no school lunch. He mostly didn’t go to school because his mum was paranoid, and would say, “don’t go to school, they’ll hurt you”. He knew she wasn’t right, but since his mum told him not to go to school, he’d head down to the skate park instead and hang out there all day. “I had no rules. I was a naughty kid.”  He became friends with the older kids at the skate part because they were loads better than him and he thought they were the best people to learn tricks from. There was one friend, Jason, who was 20, who Mikey saw as a mentor – “he gave me food and second-hand boards”.   * Can you tell us more about what you used to do at the skate park, how long you were there for each day, what tricks people would teach you, the skate store you used to run for and what that involved?   Things came to a head with Mikey’s schooling one day when one of Mikey’s older siblings contacted his Aunt Lois (who was his mum’s sister) to tell her that Mikey was due to start high school in January, and he hadn’t even been enrolled. Aunty Lois got in contact with Mikey and she persuaded him to go to Robina High School. Aunty Lois also contacted Aunty Debbie (who was the wife of her brother Alan), and asked her to help as well. Debbie hadn’t seen Mikey since he was 3, even though they lived a block apart. It had become too hard to deal with Mikey’s mum and dad.   * Can you tell us how this came about, and how you felt while it was all going on?   Interviews:   * Jason Heather * Aunty Lois * Debbie and Alan |
| MY24 statement (approx. 0:30) | * In his own words, Mikey makes a decisive statement about his MY24 moment in Act 1. * This is the inciting incident to the ensuing drama and creates curiosity in the audience. For example, “My life changed completely the day I was confronted by police in the principal’s office.” | Needs to be in Mikey’s words.  For example, MY24 was the day I met Aunty who I hadn’t seen for almost ten years. She enrolled me in school, bought me supplies, fed me chicken pie, and changed my life. |
| The MY24 (approx. 3:00) | * Mikey goes back to give us a blow-by-blow account of their MY24 in detail from his perspective. We track through the moment or event chronologically to induce a growing sense of drama, including:   + What happened? When? Where? How?   + What was he thinking while it was happening?   + What did he do?   + How did he feel? * This event is the cause of their life transformation, so it must carry weight for Mikey and the audience. * This account leads us to understand clearly the inciting incident Mikey referred to in his MY24 statement – it makes sense now. * This is the cause of great transformation that life is now offering. | Blow-by-blow account:  The next day, Mikey met his Aunties Lois and Debbie at the school the day before term started to enrol him. Mrs Lodden, the Guidance Officer at Robina High School, was also there, and they enrolled him. So Mikey was enrolled to start high school at Robina High School, but didn’t have a school bag or any supplies.  Afterwards, Debbie asked if Mikey wanted to come to the shops with her. They went to Robina shopping centre. “She bought me a school bag, a toothbrush, toothpaste, underwear, and all the essentials. No one’s ever taken me shopping.”  When she asked him what he wanted to eat, he said “chicken pie”, which she bought, and they went back to her place and ate. They got along really well and although Mikey had only just met her, he was already calling her ‘Aunty’.  Afterwards, Debbie dropped him back at home and give him her number. “She told me to call her if I needed anything, so I did. I called her soon after as I didn’t know how to do any of the school work.” |
| New direction statement (approx. 0:30) | * This is a moment of self-revelation – we can clearly see how Mikey’s MY24 event has changed his perspective of his life forever, and through the revelation, he has a new view of life and the future. * Mikey succinctly defines the new path he’s found himself on – his new goal, the new purpose he wants to strive for and achieve. * This occurs at the end of the MY24 account, leading directly into ‘The impact’. | Needs to be in Mikey’s words.  Self-revelation – Mikey realised he had someone to rely on if he needed help.  New path – He decided he would reach out to Debbie if and when he needed anything. |
| The impact (approx. 3:00) | * Mikey works through the impacts of the life-changing event – his decision takes him on a journey, one filled with new experiences and new people, combined with problems and obstacles that need to be overcome. * Other people in his life share their views on the impacts and obstacles of Mikey’s story * This narrative builds as we head closer to seeing Mikey achieve his goal – we get a clear sense he has been changed by his choices. | About a month after that first meeting with Debbie, he started staying over, sleeping the night and having a hot dinner.   * Can you tell us more about how your relationship with Debbie and Alan unfolded? How often did you see them? How did you feel when you were at their place? How was it different to home? How did you feel when you had to go home? What did your parents think?   One day, Mikey heard about a skating competition at the skate park. It was free to enter, and he just had to have a parent or guardian register him. He wasn’t living with Deb and Alan at that stage, but he would sleep there quite often, and so he asked Debbie if she’d register him and come along to watch. To his surprise, he won and qualified to compete in the Australian titles held in Sydney in April.   * Can you tell us about this competition – how did it feel to have Debbie there? Do you think having that support helped you? What was the event like? Can you tell us about the Sydney event you won as well?   “There was a skate comp on and my Aunty came along to watch me. No one had ever watched me in a comp, and I won (the state comp). My Aunty talked to my Uncle and said we should take him to Sydney to the Australian titles, so we went and I won the title. I was a normal skater kid and in 24 hours, I was an Australian champion.”  A week later, he had a phone call from Nike offering him sponsorship. (NB – Steer clear of branding and commercial mentions.) His Aunty Debbie said that winning the comp brought about a huge change in Mikey, giving him confidence and direction to pursue his goals.   * Can you tell us more about what happened when you were offered sponsorship? What changed for you?   Mikey says, “Deb and Alan changed my life. Winning Under 15 skating title changed my skating life. I’ve always wanted to be a professional skater and now I’m halfway there.”  In the June holidays, he permanently moved in with his Aunty Debbie and Uncle Alan. His Aunty Debbie has two grown up children (35 and 40), and her grandson is the same age as Mikey. He now has a whole extended family, cousins, aunts and uncles. They moved him to the local high school (Elanora High School) because it was closer, and bought him a bike so he could ride the 2km to and from school every day.   * Can you tell us how you came to this decision? How did Debbie and Alan work it out with your parents? How did you feel when you made this decision? Tell us what the day you moved in was like? Show us your room. |
| Pay-off statement (approx. 0:30) | * In his own words, Mikey crystallises his achievements as a result of his MY24 moment and its impacts – this second turning point mirrors the MY24 statement at the turning point of Act 1. * This section, directly following ‘The impact’, gives the audience a firm understanding of what the physical and emotional actions of Mikey have led to – this is the ‘Pay-off statement’.   + It may be a specific tangible achievement, or a stage of their personal development that is well underway and moving towards achievement.   + It may be a realisation that has come through the actions and obstacles outlined in ‘The impact’ that is leading them to a new, more ambitious goal.   + It could be an achievement that is introspective – a character shift and new understanding of their purpose in life and how they relate to the world around them. * This segment is in direct contrast to the ‘Life before’ section at the beginning of the story – it must clearly show Mikey in a different phase of life, having clearly developed as a character in his actions and his understanding of his life and his place in it. | Needs to be in Mikey’s words.  “I don’t think poor me. I’ve had it tough. I’m doing well now. I’m an Australian champion. Without my Aunty, I wouldn’t be where I am. She has given me the best start – she’s an angel.” |
| Life now (approx. 2:00) | * Mikey gives us an account of life now – what he’s doing, study, friends, social and family life – a rounded summary that illustrates just how far he’s come since the start of his story. * There should be a brief moment of reflection about the journey he’s been on. | Mikey is 16 and is now in Year 11 at Elanora State High School, and still lives with Deb and Alan.   * How is living with Deb and Alan different to life with your parents? Did you have new rules and chores? What are they? How do you feel about living with Deb and Alan now? Do you always get along?   He’s doing well academically and really applies himself to school and study. He’s involved in leadership roles at the school and drama, and has acted in the school musical.   * What do you like best about school? Do you feel like you’ve caught up?   He also still gets to see his mum and dad now and then. “I still see my mum and dad, but not regularly. It’s tough for me to see them. I go see them, help them clean up and do shopping.”   * If Mikey is happy to talk about how he feels about this, that would be great.   Keanu is his best mate and skate buddy. They live nearby to each other and skate together. “We push each other on learning new tricks.” This year, Keanu won Mikey’s previously held junior title.   * Can you tell us about your friendship with Keanu? How did you meet? How do you push each other? What else do you do besides skating? How did you feel when he won your old title?   Mikey has an older brother, Juan (22), a chef who lives in Melbourne and was recently married, and an older sister Cecilia (20), who lives nearby in Ashmore and is a dancer.   * Do you see your siblings? How often are you in contact with them?   Interviews:   * Auntie Debbie and Uncle Alan * Mr Hodges * Keanu * Josh Hamilton |
| The future (approx. 0:30) | * Mikey gives us a short summation of what he sees for himself in the future:   + What will he be doing?   + What will he continue with?   + What will he leave behind? * There must be a sense of forward momentum and a continued path that his MY24 has put him on. | The future is looking bright for Mikey. Next year, he hopes to run for school captain when he’s in Year 12.   * Living with Debbie still? * Skateboarding goals? * What does he think the future holds for him and his family? * What is he leaving behind, and what is he moving forward with? * What else does he see himself doing in the future – his hopes and goals? * Sums up his MY24 experience and how it changed his life forever – what does he think his life would have been like had his MY24 not have happened? How has it made life better? |