

THE SAGA FRAMEWORK

QUICK-START CARD

Your first Saga-framed briefing in minutes, not hours

1. What kind of story are you telling?

Match your situation to the archetype below. Pick the closest fit. You don't need a perfect match.

Archetype	Use when you're dealing with...	Opening line template
The Siege	Sustained pressure: ransomware, APT, compliance grind	"The enemy is at the gates, and our walls are showing strain."
Prophet's Warning	Ignored advisories, shelved audit findings, unpatched vulns	"The Oracle spoke. The throne was silent. Now the prophecy unfolds."
Dragon's Awakening	Dormant risk erupting: legacy systems, shadow IT, hidden debt	"A dragon slept beneath our kingdom. It is waking."
Sacred Artifact	Technology adoption: Zero Trust, XDR, cloud migration	"A powerful artifact exists. The quest to claim it begins."
Merchant's Journey	Third-party risk, vendor dependencies, supply chain	"Our merchants bring vital goods, but their roads are unguarded."
Alliance Formation	Cross-team initiatives, shared services, IR coalitions	"No single kingdom can face this alone. We must form a council."
Succession Crisis	Leadership turnover, key-person risk, knowledge gaps	"The throne sits empty. The realm waits."

2. How much story can your audience handle?

Dial Setting	Best for	Rule of thumb
Conservative	Boards, regulators, audit committees	Lead with metrics. Use metaphor only to frame, not to carry.
Balanced	Exec strategy sessions, leadership 1:1s	Story and data share the stage. Default when unsure.
Full Myth	Awareness training, culture, conferences	Story leads, data supports. Memorability over auditability.

If unsure, start Balanced. You can always dial down if the room stiffens or dial up if they're leaning in.

3. Write your three sentences

These three lines are the spine of your briefing. Everything else is supporting detail.

Pillar	Question to answer	Your one sentence
REALM (Where)	Where is the risk? What systems, data, or business functions are at stake?	Example: Our payment processing systems on the east network handle \$40M annually.

Pillar	Question to answer	Your one sentence
CAST (Who)	Who decides? Who defends? Who is affected?	Example: CFO owns the decision. SOC lead runs defense. 2.4M customers are exposed.
QUEST (What)	What's the journey? What do you need, and what's the reward?	Example: Deploy WAF + patch pipeline in two phases. Reward: 90% reduction in exposure before audit.

Anchor in data and make the ask

<p>2–3 data points that prove it:</p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p>3. _____</p>	<p>Your ask (one sentence):</p> <p>“Approve \$ _____ to _____ to prevent _____.”</p>
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4. Credibility check (before you walk in the room)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Every metaphor tied to a real number? <input type="checkbox"/> Plain-language summary ready (zero myth)? <input type="checkbox"/> Stakeholders cast respectfully? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Translation strip ready for skeptics? <input type="checkbox"/> Professional delivery, not theatrical? <input type="checkbox"/> Could you strip all myth and still stand?
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This card got you started. For guided prep, use the Practitioner Toolkit. For the full methodology, case studies, and research, see The Saga Framework manual.