Writing loglines requires that you know enough about your story and your characters to state the story question, thematic ideas, internal goals, and setting. Here's a template:

A. Create your story question.

Protagonist's name: _____

Antagonist's name: _____

Protagonist's external goal (at the surface level, wants more than anything):

_____

Antagonist's goal: _____

Set up the above as a story question as follows:

_____ (protagonist) **must** _____

(protagonist's goal) **by** _____

(conflict with antagonist) **only to realize**

_____

(what the character learns that helps him/her grow)

Example: Dorothy **must** *defeat the Wicked Witch who stands between her and home* **by** *marshalling her friends and resources* **only to realize** *the power to go home was within her all along.*

B. Uncover your theme and internal goals

1. Theme: Try to find a theme for your story that has power and depth. The more layers to your theme, the richer your story. For example, at level one, *Jurassic Park*'s theme is "don't mess with Mother Nature." At level two, it's "pride goes before a fall."

State your theme or levels of theme as a cliche, like the above. Examples might include "you can't go home again"; "with great power comes great responsibility"; "love is the answer", etc.

Example: For the Wizard of Oz, the theme might be "there's no place like home", but at a deeper level, "you've got friends who've got your back", and at a deepest level, "the power is within you."

State your theme(s): _____

_____

2. Now understand your protagonist's internal goal:

Protagonist's internal/emotional conflict:

_____

Protagonist's main flaw:

_____

What does your character need to learn in order to overcome her flaw?

_____

State the protagonist's internal goal and growth from flaw in the form of a sentence:

_____

Example from the Wizard of Oz: Dorothy will find her way home, and conquer the darker forces around her, only by trusting in her friends and ultimately in herself.

C. Identify the time and place:

Time period: _____

Setting: _____

D. Bring all of these elements together in a simple and general sentence.

For the logline, no specifics like character names or place names. Loglines are designed to be non-specific. You can use all the things you've identified above to generate a short synopsis paragraph for your query letter.

Example: *After a twister transports a lonely Kansas farm girl to a magical land, she sets out on a dangerous journey to find the power to send her home.*