

Screenwriting Workshop | film & photography society

Printed Resources:

- *Save the Cat!* by Blake Snyder
- *Essentials of Screenwriting: The Art, Craft, and Business of Film and Television* by Richard Walter
- *Write Screenplays that Sell: The Ackerman Way* by Hal Ackerman

Online Resources:

- <http://www.screenwriting.info>
- <http://screenwritingstandard.com>
- <http://screenwritingtips.tumblr.com>
- <http://www.blakesnyder.com/tools>
- <http://thescriptlab.com/screenwriting>
- <http://www.writersstore.com>

Logline:

- One sentence that tells us what the movie is about in an engaging way
- Should evoke a compelling mental picture of the film
- Should demarcate the tone, target audience, and sense of cost of the film
- Should include an adjective to describe the protagonist, an adjective to describe the antagonist, and a compelling goal we identify as human beings

Character Descriptions:

- Age range and body type are all we need
- Actors are cast as types
- Find impressionistic words that create pictures
- Never leave the reader wanting less
- Introduce every character through a defining act

Setting Descriptions:

- Use impressionistic snapshots
- Show how the outer life illuminates the inner life
- Resist the temptation to direct on the page
- Stick to the narrative imperative
- Move the story forward

Formatting Software:

- Celtx (free or subscribe with \$6 per month)
- Trelby (free but only available on Windows and Linux)
- Movie Draft (costs \$30 and unavailable for Linux)
- Fade In (costs \$50 and is compatible for multiple software)
- Adobe Story Free (free but is only available to work online)
- Adobe Story CC (\$15 per month for Creative Cloud members)
- Final Draft (costs \$100 and is considered the industry standard)

Exposition:

- Exposition scenes address the journalistic W's (who, what, where, when, and why)
- Establish the universe of the story by bringing the character to a place of life-changing events
- We must know the end before we know our beginning
- Introduce your character engaged in an activity that defines for us who he or she is
- Making the occasion the beginning or ending of something gives the scene a sense of moment

Inciting Event:

- Once the exposition has set up the status quo, an event occurs that changes it all and propels the story
- The event establishes the stake of the story, the thing we are meant to root for
- Life-changing events often come disguised as bad news and are not what they seem

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Screenplay Format:

