



Screenwriter's Guide (Also see Creative Writer's Guild at UCI)

1 page of a script = **1 minute** of screen time

Helpful tips for writing:

- **Real experience?** If you're ever lacking creativity, think back on what has happened to you before. A lot of stories derive from someone's personal experience. It's also a good idea to always keep a notepad handy to jot down ideas whenever they randomly occur.
- **Give your characters a name** even if it's temporary. It makes it easier for the reader and the actor to grow attached to the character.
- **Revisions should be shorter.** Your page length should be going down when you're making revisions. Never add more to a script, it won't get anywhere in terms of decision-making and planning.
- **Don't describe characters with other characters.** For example, describing someone to have Kristen Stewart's smile. It shows the lack of ability to visualize and create your own characters.

Applications for Screenplay Formatting:

CELTIX.COM ADOBE STORY

Real-world Experience:

Development companies generally receive a stash of scripts. They use their interns to do **script coverage**, which summarizes the script's potential to become a film so that the boss doesn't have to waste time and will only look at it if it is considered. Most scripts that circulate are horrible, but if you pass on a script that is later bought by a studio and becomes a blockbuster, you're fired. If you would like to do script coverage, countless companies in the LA region are always hiring, for non-pay. If the development company likes the script, they plan out a package that would later be used to pitch to studios. If they give you the "**green light**", it's funded and moves into pre-production.

TV V.S. FILM - Most writers turn to writing for TV because there is more creative control. In film, your original script will be bought off, and then goes through n revisions by the studio's team of writers until they're satisfied with it. In the end, it's most likely nothing like the original. When you are hired to write for TV, you may write from one to several episodes, with a team of people. The execs will give you a guide on what they like and what they don't, and the rest is in your hands. The time crunch for writing TV is so fast-paced that there's less time to be picky.

Sending your Scripts - The average writer makes one script per week. It's best to get your scripts read by your friends, who not only can provide honest feedback but also can spread the word about an amazing script they read and pitch it to someone who potentially wants to buy it. Others would send mass emails or letters asking if the company will be interested in covering it, very similar to a cover letter + resume! The Blacklist is also a popular hub for scripts. But if you ever have to pay for someone to cover your script, it's not worth it!