Creating a Script and Storyboards: Project Instructions

Creating a Script:

Directions: First you will complete the 5 minute script worksheet. After that you use the story have come up with to create a full script. You will need to include the following in your script.

* Scene descriptions
* Character description
* Character directions
* Theme and Mood of the scenes
* Camera instructions
* Location information
* Dialogue for the characters.

**Shot** **Requirements**: These may be shot in any sequence the story requires, but ALL must be included. These must be included in both your script and your storyboards

1. Entrance: an actor entering and exiting through a door including the actor approaching the door, a close up as the actor turns the doorknob, the actor going through the doorway, and entering the next room or outside.
2. A Straight Cross: Including one full action shot (dancing, jumping, crawling, etc…), then a close-up of the feet, and a full shot of the actor exiting the location that takes up where the action left off after close-up.
3. High Camera Angle: An unusual Bird’s Eye view
4. Low Camera Angle: An unusual worm’s Eye View
5. An Around the Corner Shot
6. Over the shoulder shot
7. Close-Up shot
8. Medium Shot
9. Extreme Close Up

**Script Writing Tips:**

* All film stories are remakes or variations of stories that have already been written by the great authors beginning with the Greek Myths.
* Start your script by using a short story and giving it a new twist. Set it in a different time, a different location, or with different characters.
* Pick something you have time to do and don’t try to remake a feature film.
* All stories, the protagonist or Hero or Main Character WANTS something.
* Comedy: When the protagonist get what they want. A Comedy does not have to be funny; the word merely means a happy ending.
* Tragedy: When the Protagonist does not get what they want, a Unhappy Ending.
* List all the characters
* Describe the Protagonist
* Describe what the Protagonist wants
* List the sequence of events
* List the problems the protagonist will encounter
* Describe the theme of the story and describe what make it a comedy or a tragedy.

**Five Secrets to Writing Screenplays that Sell** By Michael Hauge

This past summer (1999) 12 movies earned more than $100 million at the US Box Office. Though they ranged from low budget horror to big budget sci-fi western, and included a romantic comedy, broad comedy, children’s special effects comedy, mystery thriller, occult thrillers, and a classic animated love story/adventure, they all had 5 things in common:

1. Each one had a HERO, a main character we rooted for, and whose motivations drove the story forward.
2. We IDENTIFIED with the heroes; we put ourselves inside those characters psychologically, and experienced emotion through them.
3. The heroes each pursued at least one clear, visible DESIRE, which they had to accomplish by the end of the film, either by stopping the bad guy, winning the love of another character, or saving a terrorized child.
4. They faced seemingly insurmountable OBSTACLES in pursuing their goals….and
5. In facing those obstacles, they had to find more courage than they’d ever exhibited.

In addition to this, there are 2 simple questions that will do an immense amount to strength bot the story and character development in your screenplay.

1. WHAT IS YOUR HERO’S DESIRE? What compelling goal does you hero HAVE to accomplish by the end of the movie, and why does he desperately want that? The answer to these questions will define your story concept, propel the plot forward, give the reader a specific outcome to root for and lead you deeper into the inner motivations of your character.
2. WHAT TERRIFES YOU HERO? On the plot level, this question will force you to determine which obstacles the hero must face to achieve his objective – what’s at stake for him, what’s he up against and which conflicts will give the story its necessary emotional fear will reveal his inner conflict: the wounds form his past, the identity he clings to, the risks he is desperate to avoid and the arc the story will lead him through as he finds his necessary emotional courage.

Creating a Storyboard:

Directions: You will create Storyboards to go with your script. You do not need to be an artist, just make sure it is clearly understandable. You need to label each board so a viewer can easily match it to your script. You will take your script and create a visual representation of each scene in your script. Think of this like creating a comic book, just without the dialogue (that is what the script is for). You will have a block for each take or camera angle change. You will need to include the following:

* Opening Title
* Credits
* How long that take should last (written)
* What the location or background of the scene is (written)
* Props the character will have, list all for each scene (written)
* Number each scene (written)
* The interaction of the characters (drawn)
* Indication motion or movement of characters (drawn)