



Screenplay

How to....



What are the key features?

Will it be understood by actors, directors and producers?

Guiding Questions

- You could write a screenplay yourself.
- Look at a real screenplay to get an idea of what they look like.

Prologue

- Choose your story.
- A good story will have strong characters and make you feel something for what's going on.

The story

Next, describe your story's "high concept." This is the term they use in Hollywood to mean what the main idea of your story is.



Write your "what if" statement here:

The concept

- Find the middle of the page, vertically and horizontally. Type the title in bold type.
- Two lines below the title, type “Written by” centred on the line. Two lines underneath that, type your name, also centred. In the lower right-hand corner, put your name, address, phone number, and email address.

The document

ON THE RUN

Written by

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Step 5. Setting the Scene

You will write in scenes.

Scenes are pieces.

Each scene has to establish who is in the scene, where it is, when it is, and what is happening.

There needs to be something happening in each scene.

The Scene Heading

Where the action is.

Type the scene heading left aligned.

Use all capital letters.

Adding Action

Write the action

Use *present* tense. That means that we write as though whatever is happening in the scene is happening **right now**.

The first time you mention a character's name - CAPITALS.

A sound in caps.

Here's an example:

INT. BASEMENT – MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Dim light filters through high, narrow windows. Children lie sprawled asleep on filthy mattresses on the bare floor. KAREN DIAMOND, 25, is awake, sitting on the lowest step of the wooden staircase with her face in her hands.

FOOTSTEPS are heard from the floor above.

Example:

INT. BASEMENT – MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Dim light filters through high, narrow windows. Children lie sprawled asleep on filthy mattresses on the bare floor. KAREN DIAMOND, 25, is awake, sitting on the lowest step of the wooden staircase with her face in her hands. FOOTSTEPS are heard from the floor above.

KAREN

(sighing)

What am I going to do with
all these kids? Where are we
going to go? How are we going
to get out of here alive ?

Example:

KAREN

(sighing)

What am I going to do with
all these kids? Where are we
going to go? How are we going
to get out of here alive?

Getting up from the steps, Karen walks over to one of the windows and stares out of it.

KAREN (CONT'D)

There's got to be a way out of
here. This alley has to lead
somewhere.

This shows that while she is getting up and looking out of the window, she is still talking.

Step 14. Do it right!

- Perfect spelling and grammar.
 - Don't rely on your computer program's checker
 - Screenwriting is a serious business.
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