

## **Screenwriting Guide**

### **A 7-step approach to writing a screenplay**

1. Write a single paragraph of the story's concept, including the wants and needs of the main character.
2. Create a character profile for each main character, 1/2 - 1 page per character (more detail is better), listing:
  - a. who they are
  - b. what they want/need (motivation)
  - c. physical appearance
  - d. relationships
  - e. personality
  - f. emotional bearing
  - g. where they live
  - h. their beliefs
  - i. paradoxes
  - j. other pertinent info
3. Expand the concept paragraph to a 1-page summary, including a beginning, middle and end.
4. Conduct a brainstorming session where you list all the images that come to your mind, typically 1-2 pages.
5. Write a numbered, sequential list of all the events in the story (called a Beat sheet, typically 4-5 pages). For example:
  1. Benson drives to the beach and parks his car.
  2. Benson gets out of the car, and walks to the end of the pier.
  3. Benson meets Natasha and kisses her softly.
6. Use the Beat sheet to describe each new location (scene), and write a more detailed description of what happens at each new scene. This is called a Treatment, typically 8-10 pages.
7. Write the script, using the Treatment as reference, adding dialogue. Try to make each sentence a different shot. Rule of thumb: each page = 1 minute.