

FVP12 • Halifax West High School

Semester 2: February - June 20116

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Assignment: Scriptwriting to Short Film Production

Unit 4: Film Development and Production

GCO 4: Demonstrate an understanding of the script-to-screen process from research to the final production.

: In their specific roles, manage logistical, creative, technical, and/or promotional aspects of a movie

: interact with sensitivity to and respect for their own work and that of other team members

: manipulate ideas, tools, and materials in expressing their understanding.

Overview

A **screenplay** is often the first stage of production. Hopeful authors will write a screenplay based on a true-life event, a book - or just from their imagination! If accepted, the play is re-written into a **shooting script**: a document that the director and actors- and even lighting and technical crew- can use when they are shooting the film. Everyone in the production team must speak the same “language”. For this reason, scripts are written to a tight set of conventions, or rules. A **storyboard** is a collaboration of the director and the storyboard artist. It gives a visual representation of how each shot will look. Finally, a **pitch** is a sales-pitch, a plea for someone to buy into your idea.

The Assignment: Demonstrate an understanding of the script-to-screen process from research to the final production

Part 1: Idea to Script (value 20)

For part one this assignment, each production group will produce a Script based upon a **chosen theme/title**. How you interpret the theme is up to you but keep it simple. Plan with care- your script should be good enough to “go to production”!

Framework/marking criteria for script:

- The script will be around **2-3 pages long** (for a 2-3 min short film)
- **Include** an additional title page (title & author)
- Include basic dialogue.
- At least 2 scenes
- **MUST** use script-writing conventions/formatting (scene headings, action, character, dialog, etc). **Use Celtx or Adobe Story.**
- **In addition** to an electronic copy, **script must be submitted as a printed, single-sided, fastened document.** Marks will be lost if you don't do this.
- **Aim for Dramatic Structure/Conflict-Resolution**

Part 2: Storyboarding (value 10)

Develop your short film script into a working storyboard

Storyboarding is an important aspect of the pre-production phase. The storyboard artist works closely with the screenplay writer and director, the storyboard artist breaks down the scenes of the script into shots, which can be filmed. The storyboard represents a manipulation of time. It condenses the communication process to a pictorial simplification of a multitude of complicated factors.

The storyboard is a visual account of how **subject** and **camera motion** will occur. Storyboarding also helps to articulate the **mise-en-scène**. As the film nears production, the storyboard is brought to the attention of the cinematographer. It is important to show **each different shot-type** and include **camera movements** and **additional (written/symbolic) information** about what is happening on the screen.

Complete a storyboard then shoot it!

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Part 3: Short Film Production + Edit (value 20)

**Please note that video cameras will only be given out if there is sufficient evidence that the required planning stages have been attempted.*

Working from your Script & Storyboard, your final task is to carefully shoot (and edit) the film.

Students may consider props, costumes, location, etc but keep it simple. The final outcome will be assessed upon how closely the 2-3min film matches your Script & Storyboard. Any amendments must be added to the above documents (notes over-written in pencil, etc)

Complete as many takes as you need but don't forget to log/number the takes. The final piece will be edited in Adobe Premiere Pro

Include a title (name of the film) at the start and credits/production roles at the end of the film. At this stage production roles may include writer, director, storyboard artist, camera operator, sound recordist, actor, etc. Which one are you?

Submit for Assessment

(Please also note the allocation of marks below)

1. Correctly formatted and printed 2-3 page Script (value 20)
2. A Storyboard (10pts)
3. Edited Short Film inc titles + credits (value 20)

Total Assignment value=50

M. Barker March 2016