



How to Write a Screenplay a Reader Will Love

Develop the mindset of a writer

- Block out time to *write* each day (at least five days a week)
- Keep a journal – especially if you can't manage to write pages
- Write what you know
- What are your favorite genres?
- What is a personal experience?
- Opportunity ears - listen for stories all around you

What are your favorite films?

What are your favorite characters?

- Write all the character on 3 x 5 cards and mix them up – then randomly pick a few to see what stories can you come up with
- Think of a new twist on public domain (Grimms and Snow White is public domain)
- Fish out of water – what if you were dropped into...where?
- Keep it simple

Open your movie with a punch

- Make it fascinating
- Never cliché

Begin your story “in the midst of things”

- Start your scene as late as possible
- Let the audience catch up

Only introduce characters that must be introduced

- Introduce the main character first
- Save other characters until later in the telling
 - The audience is still trying to figure out whose story this is
 - Too many characters at once can confuse the audience

Just get it on the page!

- Remember, this is only the first draft
- If you don't write something, you may never write anything

“He has a right to criticize, who has a heart to help.”

— **Abraham Lincoln**