

WRITING THE SCREENPLAY

There are special rules and vocabulary words for writing a script. Check them out below.

Important Vocabulary for Screenwriting

Screenplay—a story written for a movie

Location—a line that says where the scene takes place (setting)

Action—describes what is happening in the story

Dialogue—is what the characters say in a movie

Screenplay Rules

1. You must write down each new setting. It is called the LOCATION line. Every room is a new LOCATION. A jump in time in the same LOCATION is considered a new LOCATION. For example, if a character goes to sleep at night and wakes up in the morning, there should be two LOCATION lines.
2. You must describe everything that happens in the story in paragraph form. It is called ACTION. A narrator does not read the ACTION in the movie. It is for the director to tell the actors what to do in the scene.
3. When the characters talk, you must put their names in the middle of the page with all capitals. Then, put what they say underneath. It is called DIALOGUE.

Here's an example that includes a line of dialogue to illustrate how it is written.

INT. HALLWAY – DAY

location

Pablo walks down the hallway. No one is there.

Action

PABLO
Hello? Is anyone there?

dialogue

INT. HALLWAY – LOCKERS – DAY

location

Pablo walks down another hallway. He walks up to his locker and it is open. He turns around to see if anyone is there. He sees a girl in a classroom, but she vanishes. A hand comes out of the locker. It reaches for Pablo, but he moves out of the way. He runs away.

action

Results/Reflection