**Quarantine - Film Screenplay – How To Guide**

A good screenplay does one of the following:

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| Create **conflict** immediately | Send your protagonist on a **journey** |

A screenplay follows a **rigid layout** which is set out

for you in a template on **MICROSOFT WORD.**

There are **SIX** key features to a **screenplay** which includes the following (luckily the Microsoft Word template has it all programmed and formatted for you)!

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| 1 – **Slug line –** Scene Heading = tells the readers where the scene takes places* Every scene must have a slugline with two main choices:
	+ INT – interior (inside) – EXT – exterior (outside)
* Then you should name the location e.g. bedroom/ living room/ school
* Finally, if relevant, state the **time of day** e.g. NIGHT / DAY / DUSK / DAWN
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| 2 – **Action –** Sets the scene and describes the setting and allows you to **introduce your characters.** * Ensure you write your action in the **PRESENT TENSE.**
* Your action should write as things occur e.g. ‘a door slammed shut’ rather than looking back on something ‘a door is slammed shut’.
* You need to describe visually everything that would be evident on screen
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| 3 – **Character Name –** should be formatted in uppercase e.g. THOMAS – only the first time a new character is introduced. A character doesn't have to have a name they can be a job e.g. TEACHER or a description e.g. AN ANGRY WOMAN.* When using **dialogue** a character’s name should be centralised (this is done on Word!)
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| 4 – **Dialogue –** when a character speaks to themselves, to others, or in a voiceover.* Do not **overuse** dialogue in your screenplay – action is key to capturing the essence of your narrative.
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| 5 – **Parenthetical –** this means to include in brackets; this refers to **how the character says or does something** * Generally a parenthetical are ADVERBS (-LY ending words)
* They are useful for capturing a character’s **attitude, tone of voice** or **indicate who they are talking to)**
* Parenthetical should be short and focused – and only used if necessary
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| 6 – **Extension –** placed to the right of a character’s dialogue and included in brackets and captures how the character’s voice is heard by the audience. E.g. * O.S. – off screen – we hear the character but do not see them on screen.
* V.O. – voiceover – narrator – reflecting and/ or describing something.
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I have annotated the relevant **six** conventions of a screenplay this an example of an A\* script:

***SCENE 1:***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Slug line: | Remember INT or EXT? - Describe the location – Time of Day? |
| Action:  | A good screenplay will open with a visual depiction of the scene; creating the atmosphere of the screenplay. Try to capture the mood and ensure it establishes the **GENRE** – teenage film.You can introduce your **MAIN PROTAGONIST (**use your stickman to help**)** try to make sure the description captures the character’s personality and qualities.Think of how your screenplay will startwhat will the **DIALOGUE** be? Will it be from your character? Or an unnamed character? Will it be a OS (it doesn’t have to!) |
| Dialogue | Remember **DIALOGUE** should be **CENTRALISED** and only used if necessary and **if it DRIVES the QUEST / JOURNEY / CONFLICT** furtherA\* example – developed and **realistic** D example – small talk  not interesting, *doesn’t grab & hook*Image |
| Parent-  hetical  | Remember to ( ) to capture the **MOOD / ATTITUDE / DIRECTED AT**The **ADVERBS** below should be very helpful:mage result for adverbsDon’t just use an adverbE.g. accusinglyINSTEAD(accusingly and with venom)**ONLY USE IF NECESSARY TO YOUR DIALOGUE and PLOT for your TEEN FILM** |
| KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER: | 1. Remember to **centralise** ALL dialogue
2. Only use **dialogue** if it is necessary and drives the narrative forward
3. **Action** is so important – the more action and description the better.
4. **Good action** will describe **briefly** some of the camera work e.g. the camera pans – BUT only **briefly** – you want to leave it up to the director to decide the overall cinematograpgy
5. Remember to **describe the character** in your action **the first time** they’re introduced – try to be creative and capture the essence of your character in their description.
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**NOTICE:** the physical description of character but also:

WEARING?

WHERE ARE THEY GOING?

WHAT’S THEIR ATTITUDE?

HOW DO THEY CARRY THEMSELVES?

DEADLINE No. 1

***SOME EXAMPLES***