

Refining Your Script

Evaluating and Finalizing the Script

The script is a fluid method for envisioning your idea. When you are done with your first draft, you may want to reflect on it. You may even want to get some selective but valuable feedback from your talent, crew members, and peers (but don't get so many other opinions that you become overloaded and lose your own essential point of view). Rewriting isn't just copying it out again; this is the time to take a hard and critical look at the way your idea's developing.

In evaluating your script, ask yourself these questions:

- Will the plot keep my audience interested and hold together from beginning to middle to end?
- How does each scene in the film contribute to, draw out, or help to explore my root idea?
- Does the event that starts my film lead believably to the conclusion? Is the climax necessary to solve the conflict set up by the inciting incident?
- What does my protagonist want that comes out of this inciting incident?
- Is the opposition equal to if not greater than the protagonist? Does the opposition really test him/her as a human being? How does it force him/her to develop?
- What is the worst possible thing that could happen to my main character? How could that turn out to be the best possible thing? Could what initially seems to be great for the character turn out to be disastrous?
- Does the ending fit with the flow and key incidents in the story?
- As we move towards the ending, do we become more involved with the characters? Do we grow to identify with the protagonist?
- As the ending approaches, do we feel a acceleration in the action?
- Is my dialogue effective in communicating my ideas? Do I need all the dialogue

in my script? Could some conversations be replaced by action or images?

- How effective are the images I have selected in communicating my ideas?
- Do the sounds work well with the images?
- Have I made this script simple enough that I can produce this video within my own specific personal, technological, financial and time limitations?

Think up any other questions you want to ask yourself and use them to help you critically review the effectiveness of your first draft.

You may choose to develop your script by going through the process of several revisions. The scriptwriter normally goes through multiple drafts until achieving the closest and strongest realization of his/her idea.

Storyboarding

At this point you may also choose to create a *storyboard*. A storyboard contains a rough sketch representation of the scenes in your film. Each sketch will also have notes relating to framing, camera angles, movement and dialogue. Using a storyboard allows you to see what the scene will look like, and works as a timeline, mapping out how one scene leads to another. Used with your script, the storyboard provides a visual representation that can help in setting up your shots.