

CASTING

VISYON

Guidelines on how to develop a short-movie script



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BRAINSTORMING

Share ideas, take notes, find examples in the real life/fiction

1st DRAFT

Outline the first version of the concept

REVISION

Present your work to someone for the first time and collect comments

FINAL VERSION

Complete your script. You are now ready to film!

Steps of script writing



- Work closely with your team, take your time
- Do not put yourself limits
- Find inspiration from your favourite movies and/or from real-life personal experiences

Summarize your ideas using a board and coloured post-it. It will help during the following phases.

**TOP
TIP!**

Brainstorming

List of materials you may need

- Board
- Post-it
- Colours
- Interviews
- Computer



Brainstorming

LOGLINE

It represents the core concept of your script. You don't need to delve into twists, character arcs, and plot. You're simply conveying the core idea—the initial seed from that which the plot, characters, twists, turns, and ensuing conflict grows.



FOLLOW YOUR VISION



Ask yourself what you want viewers to take away from the story and make sure this drives every decision you make throughout the writing process.

DETERMINE THE TIMELINE



Structural devices like flashbacks, time jumps and non-chronological storytelling can be fun, but they can also be tricky. Make sure the story flows well without confusing the audience.

DEVELOP YOUR CHARACTERS

Write a detailed description of your characters' background and motivations. This will help you to create three-dimensional characters that have depth and that readers can relate to.



Some questions that your character sheet should answer:

- Who are these characters?
- What is their personality?
- Why are they in the story?
- What motivates them?
- Do they have an important backstory?
- How do they relate to the other characters?

Figure out what your characters want and then make it hard for them to get it. This builds conflict that will carry the story and add obstacles to overcome.

**TOP
TIP!**

CREATE YOUR STRUCTURE



Most scripts are divided into to 3 acts that ensure the protagonist(s) follow(s) a traditional narative structure: **the build, climax and final resolution**

The three-act structure may also be substituted for a five-act structure that similarly outlines when the build, climax and final resolution will occur.

However, a script needs to have more than this classic story structure. Each scene needs to have its own reason to be included in the overall narrative.

Keep in mind, the script's structure should always serve the story and characters rather than vice versa.

SELECT YOUR LOCATION

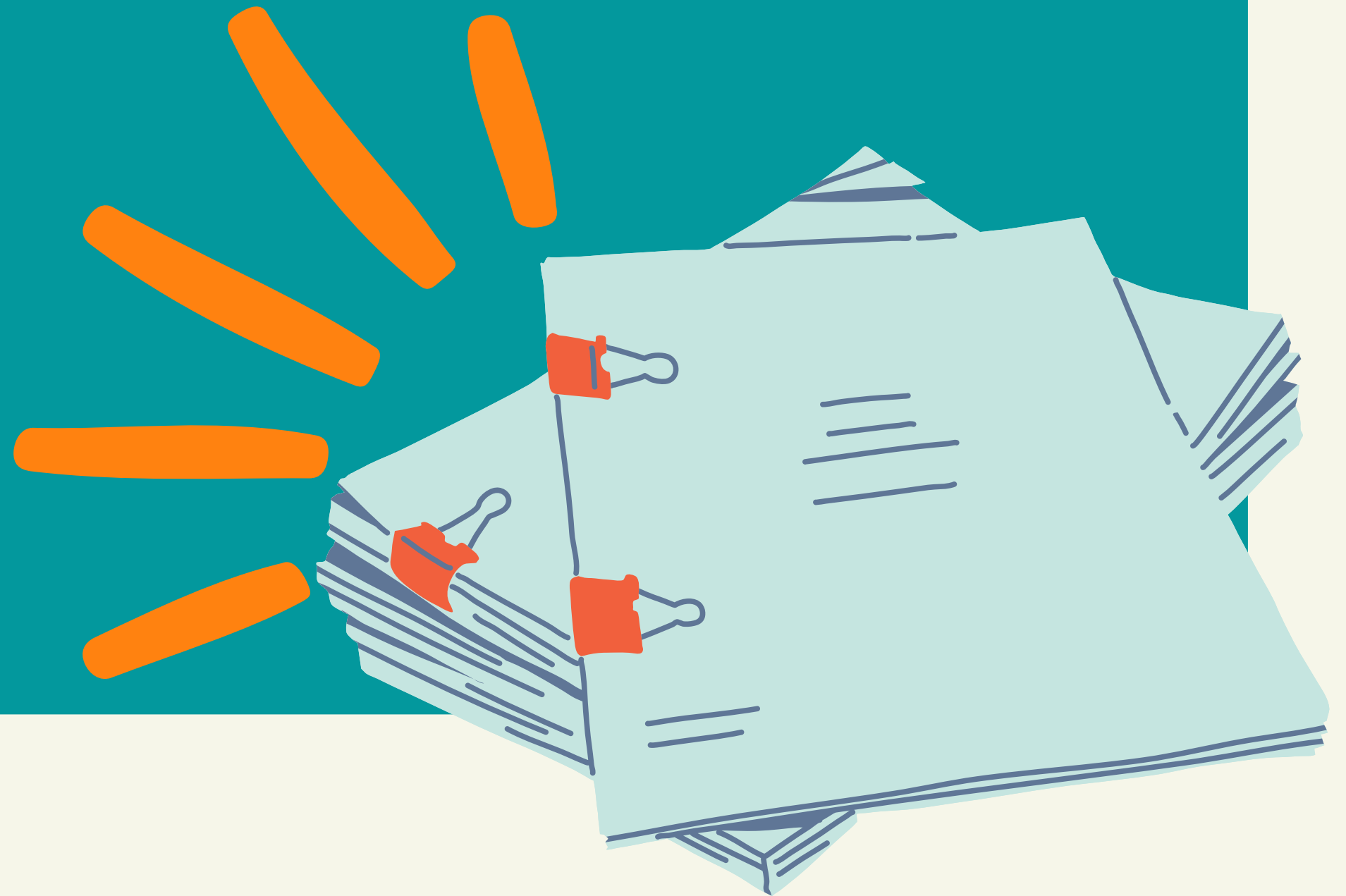


The place you select contributes to give meaning to your script. Be sure to select locations where you can enter without special permissions allowing you to have a pre-inspection. Limit the numbers of locations.

As you build your world, answer these questions:

- Are there specific world rules that will affect characters?
- How do the characters relate to this setting?
- What is the history of the world?
- How do people communicate?
- What does nature look like? Or architecture?

- Follow your vision
- Determine the timeline
- Develop your characters
- Create your structure
- Select your location



The time has finally come, you've finished your first script draft. Now, what?

For many, this part is the easiest, while others find it to be the hardest. At this point, it's time to effectively rewrite or improve the first draft that you've spent so many hours workshopping and finishing.

Oftentimes, this is where certain scenes and characters may be cut to streamline the script into a concise second, third or final draft.

ASK FOR CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACKS

Although script writing can be a solo endeavor, you can perfect your work by seeking feedbacks from others - but make sure to choose people whose opinions you trust and value.



TAKE A STEP BACK

A good practice is to step away from the current draft and perhaps lend a helping hand on other projects or scripts. This doesn't mean abandoning your script, but rather allowing at least a day or two to personally detach from a project that has taken so many hours of writing.



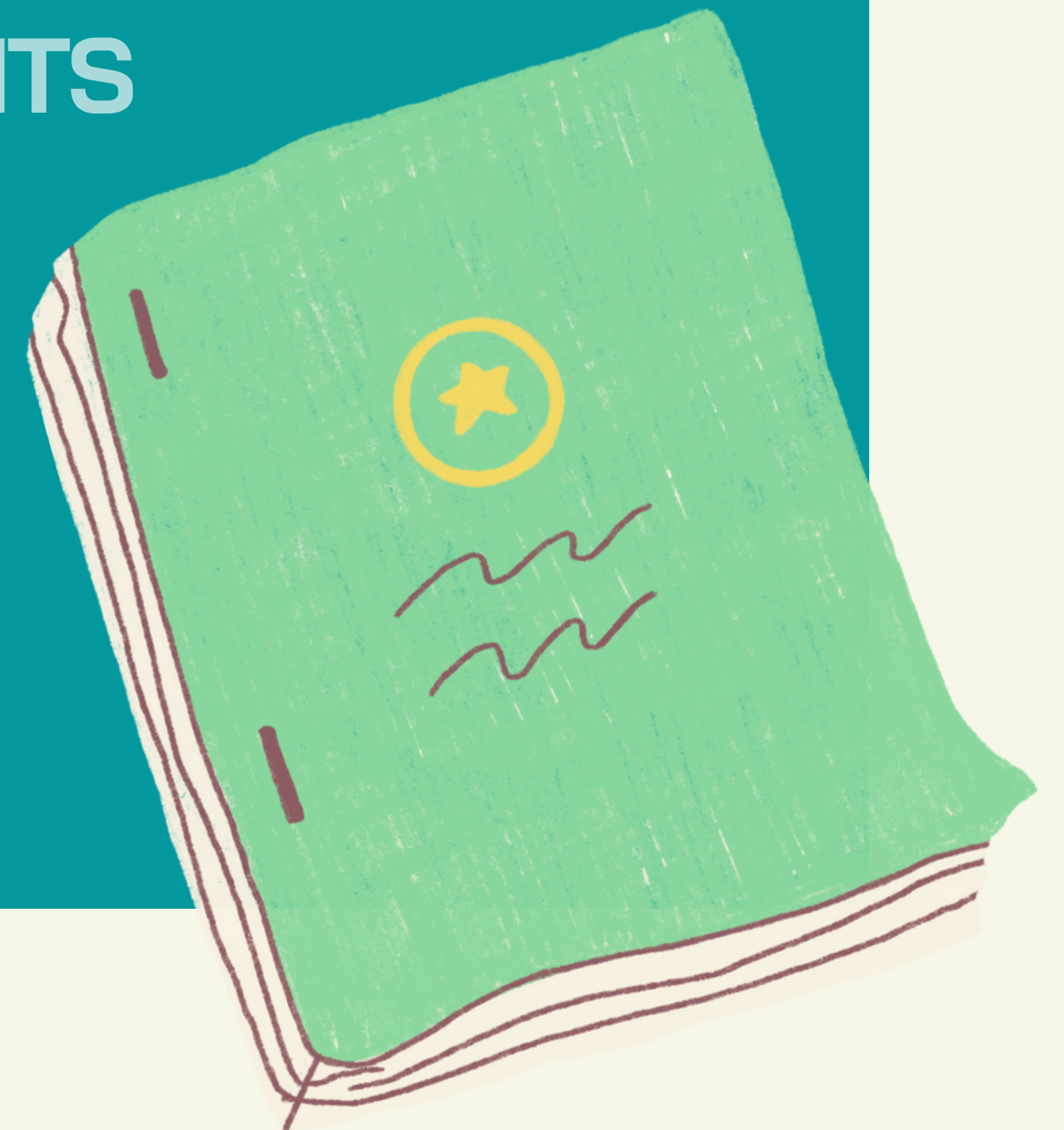
READ AND REPEAT

Rewriting is a key step toward the final script, but it shouldn't take too many alterations. If major portions need to be re-thought, it may be necessary to pull back and go back to the drawing board.



PUT TOGETHER ALL THE ELEMENTS

Once you have made the necessary adjustments it's time to complete your script in its most polished and complete version. Now you are ready to film!



About the script

SCRIPT VS. STORY

Scripts are based on stories, but a story isn't a script.

Unlike a script, a story doesn't have to provide a detailed account of each and every character, their movements or every moment of dialogue. Meanwhile, a script has to be highly detailed. When creating a script, each character has to be detailed to explain their personality. Similarly, every setting is outlined and dialogue can make up the bulk of the writing. Very little is left to the imagination of the reader because the goal focus is to guide a real-life production.

are
you
ready?

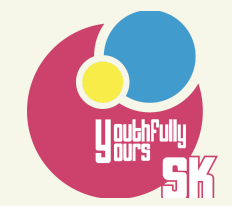




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Thank you for your attention!



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