

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

# Capstone Film Project

## OBJECTIVE

Create a class year-end film project.

## DESCRIPTION

You are creating a year-end "Capstone Film Project," which will highlight all of the processes and techniques you have learned throughout the year (scripting, storyboarding, shot lists, location scouting, filming, editing, etc.). This is an entire class project and everyone in this class will participate. Show me your creativity and collaboration skills to create your very own short film, documentary, series, or sitcom.

Select one or two directors/producers! In the real world, the producer gets promoted or fired. In this class, you get an A or not. The entire class is responsible for: writing, shooting, editing, acting, graphics, timetables, props, and back-up plans! You don't have to do all the jobs; just be sure they get done!

## KEY STEPS

1. Write Film Treatment (a single-paragraph pitch) for your proposed film project.
2. Select two people from your class to pitch the project to your investor (that is me).
3. Create a timetable for your project, detailing the dates that you'll spend on the following tasks: scripting, storyboarding, location scouting, rehearsal, shooting, and editing.
4. Create the written script. Use actors names and all camera angles, describing the responsibilities of each of the cameras. (For example, "Camera #1 covers the host and the scoreboard," etc.)
5. Get pitch, timeline, and script approval.
6. Storyboard and plan the locations needed to film the production.
7. Shoot the production.
8. Edit the scenes in the order desired. Add any titles, music, sound effects, and voice-overs necessary for your message.

*"I never went to film school; I went to films."*

*—Quentin Tarantino*

## HINTS

- Remember this project is your baby! Involve the most talented people, but make sure they're reliable people!
- Give yourself plenty of time for re-shooting scenes. Even when you're editing, you might need to get some quick re-takes. If you plan right, you'll create the best production possible.
- Don't be afraid to get some critical eyes to look over your work as you go, but don't surrender your dream either!
- Fade out of the song if you don't have enough footage - don't keep replaying the same scenes to fill up space; you'll bore the viewer!
- Try special effects either in the camera or at the editing station—but not too much. Let your script tell the story.

**1. SCRIPT**

Focusing on story, dialogue, formatting, character, plot, theme, momentum and the document itself.

**2. SUPPORT**

Focusing on the film-making team: producer, director, cast, crew, and their roles and responsibilities.

**3. STORYBOARD**

Focusing on how to turn the script into a series of pictures and images able to be filmed.

**4. STRUCTURE**

Focusing on structuring and synchronizing all aspects of the film before it is shot, such as the design, locations, make-up, hair, catering and any specific requirements of the film.

**5. SHOOT**

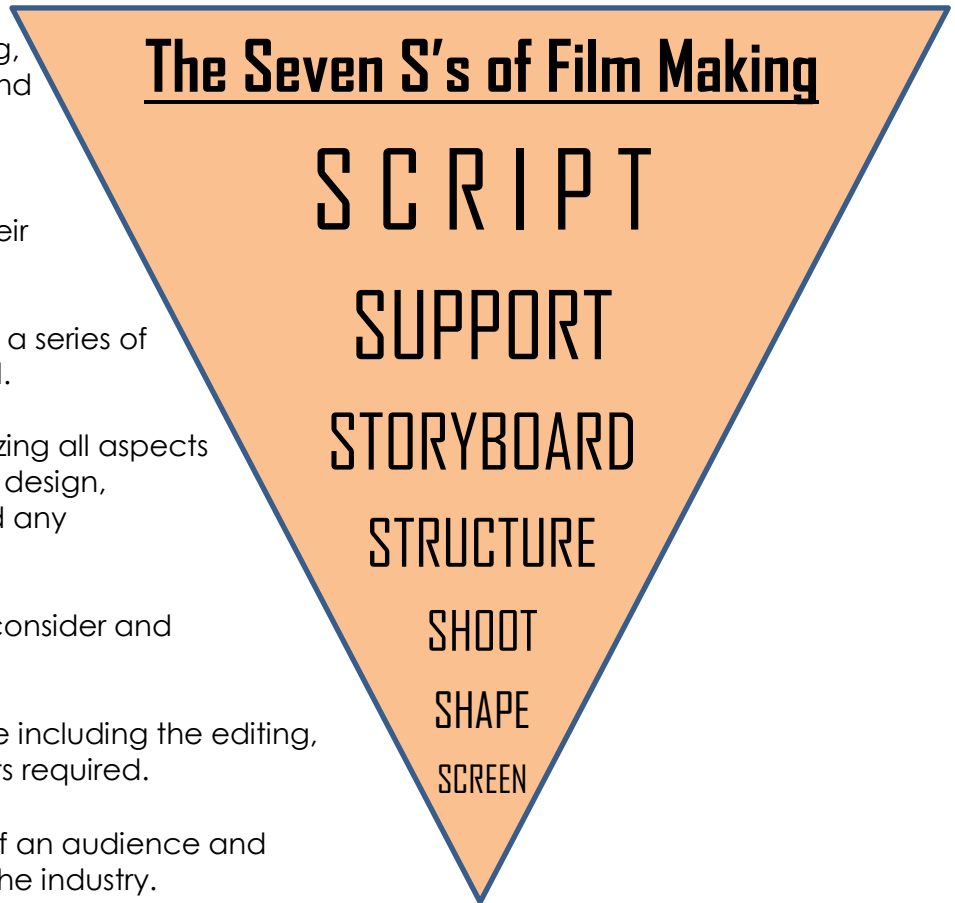
Focusing on the shoot itself, things to consider and be aware of.

**6. SHAPE**

Focusing on the post-production stage including the editing, music, sound effects and pick-up shots required.

**7. SCREEN**

Focusing on putting your film in front of an audience and using it as a 'calling card' to get into the industry.



# *Film Treatment*

## **How to Write a Film Treatment**

Generally speaking, a film's treatment is similar to that of an overview or synopsis of the film idea. It usually ranges from 8 to 15 pages and includes all the important conceptual elements, structured in 3-5 acts, each with a beginning, middle and end. When you submit your script, your treatment will often be the first document to be glanced over. If the main concept is enjoyable and your treatment is well written maybe, just maybe, your script will make it into the hands of the "professional script reader". This is an important element of screenwriting which you should know about. When you submit your script to producers, you will not be submitting your scripts to the major decision makers first. Your script will first have to pass through a filter that these large production companies have put in place.

The good news is your film treatment will be one paragraph only. The film treatment will be included as part of the Project Pitch.

# *Student Roles:*

**Director/Producer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Script Writers:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Storyboards:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Actors:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Editors:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Camera Ops:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**B-roll:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Project Pitch

**DIRECTIONS:** Complete the following.

Working title for this production: \_\_\_\_\_

Project due date: \_\_\_\_\_ Project genre: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pitch Paragraph:** (Write your project idea in five sentences or less...proper grammar must be used.)

**Special-needs list:** (equipment, performers, props, and special permission that you anticipate needing.)

**What difficulties do you anticipate?** (Your own shortcomings? The timetable? Etc.)

Pitch approved here: \_\_\_\_\_  
(INSTRUCTOR'S SIGNATURE) (DATE)

Timeline approved here: \_\_\_\_\_  
(INSTRUCTOR'S SIGNATURE) (DATE)

Script approved here: \_\_\_\_\_  
(INSTRUCTOR'S SIGNATURE) (DATE)

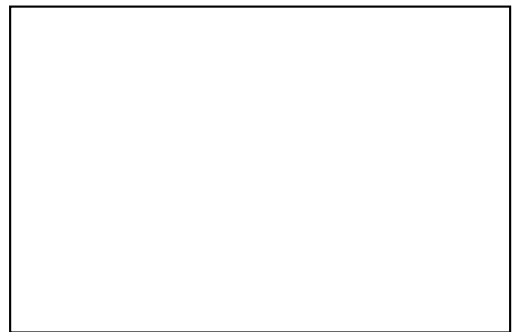
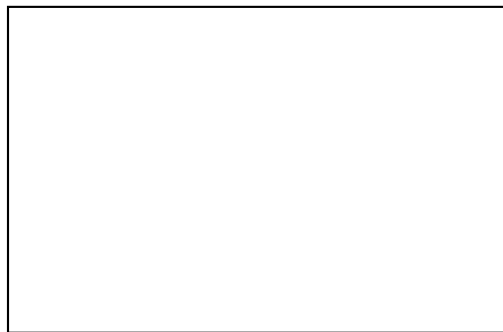
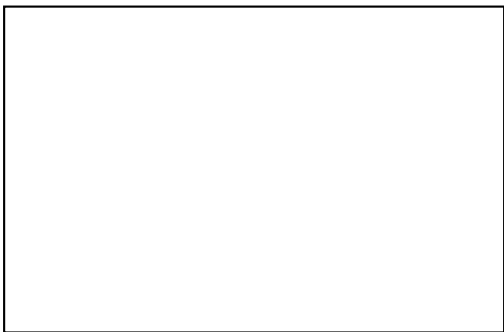
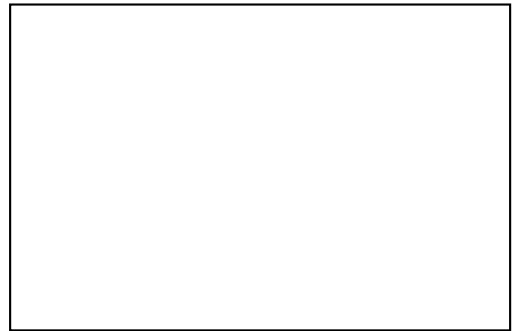
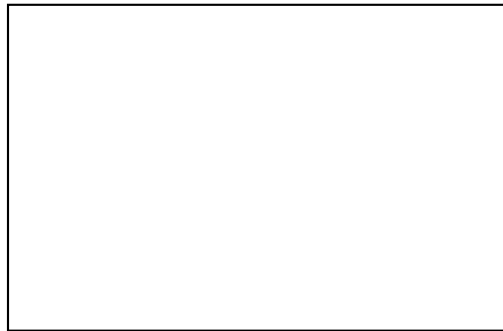
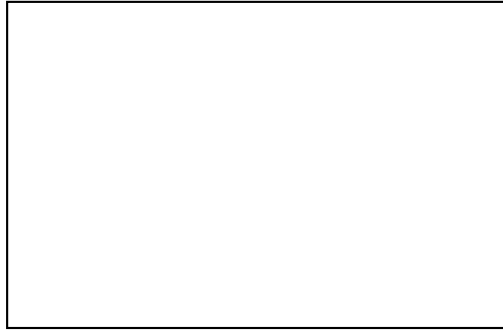
**Grades:**

1. Script/Storyboard/Shot Locations (one grade for the class)
2. Participation (May 15)
3. Participation (May 20)
4. Participation (May 23)
5. Final Project (due Tuesday May 28 - one grade for the class)





# *Storyboards*



# Storyboards (page \_)

