TITLE

by

Name

Based on a true story.

email

act i

FADE IN:

INT. LOCATION - day

INTRO CHARACTER, age, ethnicity if important, essence description, action. Present tense. 3rd Person.

character 1

(parenthetical)

Dialogue emphasis. *Foreign* words. SHOUTING.

Action.

CHARACTER 2

*Lyrics. Italics + wider margin.*

narrator (V.O.)

Narration is typically frowned upon but when used correctly can be very powerful in storytelling for the screen.

CHARACTER 1

Verse. Wider margin.
Okay to force line breaks for verse and *song*.
But don’t force line breaks in normal dialogue.

Only use ALL CAPS for something super LOUD or IMPORTANT because if you use ALL CAPS for EVERYTHING, NOTHING appears to be IMPORTANT, and people will skim past the paragraphs.

shot

(general - never use this element in a script!)

Action.

ext. location 2 - night

SUPER: "Scene Structure"

Set the scene.

Emotional reveal.

Closing twist.

INT. LOCATION 3 - day

One reason Word is a poor choice for screenwriting is that scene headings and other elements can be widowed at the bottom of a page (see above). Screenplay software is coded to never allow that to happen.

Action. Notice how there is no page number on page 1.

Page 2 is the first page to be numbered, to be continued to the last page.

Once a sequence of scenes begins, the paragraphs should get shorter as less description is required.

character 1

Dialogue should also be kept to no more than 4 lines unless there is a speech – an actor’s moment.

CHARACTER

We’re nearing the end.

A final image is usually a single, short sentence.

Always end with THE END or FADE OUT.

fade out.