



Scriptwriting

COURSE SUMMARY FOR PARENTS:

In intensive writing workshops, students individually write screenplays for short digital video films. Activities include learning key screenwriting concepts, reading and discussing existing scripts, viewing scenes from films for analysis from a writer's perspective, and writing/revising drafts of students' own scripts. Teachers work with each student to provide detailed suggestions for improvement of story structure, plot, characters, dialog, mechanics, and grammar. Students learn standard screenwriting formatting using Final Draft, a leading word processing program for scriptwriting. Final scripts are read aloud to the class so students can hear their work and visualize the final production. Scripts will be considered for production by the Production classes.

SYLLABUS SUMMARY:

DAY 1

Introductions
How is a story told?
What are the elements of a story?
Outline a short story

DAY 2

Brainstorming ideas
How a screenplay is written
Adapting a story into a screenplay

DAY 3

Writing an outline, writing a treatment
Summarizing a story concisely, engaging audiences

DAY 4

Three act structure
Writing on rough draft

DAY 5

Establishing setting, point of view
Finish rough draft

DAY 6

Creating memorable characters
Character analysis of student scripts
Select a film scene to share with class on

DAY 7

Rewrite of script
Peer review and feedback of scripts

DAY 8

Genre
Bending/breaking rules of storytelling for specific reasons
Peer review and feedback of scripts

DAY 9

Scene analysis of existing film of student's choice
Finalize student scripts

DAY 10

Reflection, wrap-up
Staged reading of final scripts
Good-byes