**1. What is the purpose of breaking down a script?**

**Answer:** The purpose of breaking down the script is to assist all the collaborators on the project, especially the producer for budgeting purposes. Additionally, breaking down the script helps the teams understand the need during production: it answers cinematography questions such as “what camera do we use?” “what film stock”?, and production design questions related to costumes/wardrobe, colors and the details such as props, that need to fill in the frame for shooting, and other questions related to cast, dialogs, extras. It also helps with on-set music and sound that is required (diagetic sound). It is also useful to attach numbers to each speaking role so that the Unit Production Manager and Line Producer know which cast members are needed for what scenes. Lastly, a breakdown sheet is required, which lists all elements needed to schedule and produce a script: characters, page count, location and wardrobe. The breakdown sheet should always be handy in case of any production-related questions from anyone on the set.

**2. At what stage in the production process is a script broken down?**

**Answer:** In the production process, the script is broken down after the development stage (and the script is locked) but before the budgeting/financing stage. Overall, this falls in to the pre-production phase.

**3. Write a 500-1,000 word synopsis of your finished script.**

**Answer:** The year is 2019. Middle America is in deep recession. Trade wars are at their peak against Mexico, China and India. No new immigrants are allowed. Only the “talented” immigrant population such as physicians, lawyers and technology experts that have corporate sponsorship are allowed to stay. American banks and insurance companies that haven’t already shut down yet declare bankruptcy but are bailed out by Congress. But Social Security is cut down and Student loans aren’t forgiven. Students take to the streets on their college campuses. The police is deployed on all campuses. On one campus, a group of students protests peacefully while another mob of students gets unruly, sets the college furniture on fire and throws copies of constitution and law textbooks in to the fire. Police throw tear gas and make arrests in the hundreds. Reporters are hurt in the mob. All of this happens with the backdrop of the Texas State Capitol in the background.

The incident in UT, Austin is observed on TV by Adam, Indian-American (Indian-born) and single father, in his 30s. He calls the students losers and the elderly stupid for not saving and investing enough in this great country with so many opportunities. Adam’s company sponsors his immigration in America and he asks his boss to speed up the process because of the political turmoil. Once he gets his green card, he cannot be deported from the country. The company assures him that he is fine. Alex is retained and promoted to maintain a relationship with key overseas clients. Adam shares news with colleagues (two Whites, one Indian-American) who joined company with him several years prior: they can’t believe he got promoted! He got hired by lying on his resume about his experience. He even bought his educational credentials from India; he didn’t earn them. One of the friends is a closeted Neo-Nazi. He doen’t like that an immigrant was able to get away with lying about experience and yet manages to get promoted.

Emma, Indian-American (American-born), 6-years old, Adam’s daughter has trouble in school: she can’t concentrate, displays aggressive behavior in soccer and is close to being expelled from school. As a last resort, the school will try to help her if the parents agree to giving her a psychological assessment. If she needs help, the school will give it by putting her in a special section.

Clarice, Indian-American (American-born) in her 30s, a pediatrician and is very well established. Both her parents live in the Austin suburbs and are retired physicians. She is Emma’s mother and is ready to sign the papers to get Emma assessed. Adam doesn’t want to sign the papers because he is weary about the stigma the (Indian) society attaches to kids with psychological issues. He is scared that Emma will be secluded and bullied. Clarice doesn’t accept Adam’s premise and threatens sole custody. After consulting with lawyers, she realizes that it isn’t possible to get sole custody in Texas. She threatens to go to his boss to reveal his past. He will get fired and get deported and if he manages to stay in America, he will become an illegal. She gives Adam one week to sign.

Dana, Indian-American (American-born), late 20s is Adam’s pregnant live-in girlfriend; she hides the pregnancy from him. She is unsure if he will be a good parent because of how he’s treating Emma. She reveals only to her friends.

In conjunction with these going-ons, the level of frustration among the Far Right populace – who are jobless and have access to firearms – is growing against immigrants. Several Neo-Nazi groups rally against immigrants in big cities, specifically in sanctuary areas. Austin is no exception. Adam’s closeted Neo-Nazi colleague is a key organizer of such rallies. One such rally turns violent: immigrants react against the protestors and in turn, the protestors shoot. The police standby and watch: they believe that the Neo-Nazis have more rights than the illegal immigrants in sanctuary cities. This is broadcast live on media. Adam sees this on TV. The country is enraged. Congress fears that urban guirella warfare will destabilize the country further, especially due to easy access to guns. A temporary ban on guns and curfew are contemplated, but since both are considered un-American, they never see the light of day. Instead, protestors are encouraged to carry on, albeit, peacefully. Neo-Nazis organizers take this as a cue to continue the carnage against immigrants. Adam is in touch with these events, as the unfold on the news.

Meanwnile, Adam has to overcome his internal stigma about properly treating his daughter. His past about psychological issues in the family still haunts him: his sister went through a similar psychological assessment in India, was secluded by the society and finally committed suicide. He doesn’t want that path for his daughter. In the Trump era, where there is no empathy for the disadvantaged and bullying is given a blind eye, it’ll be that much harder for his daughter to lead a good life.

A Mexican with a backpack is chased by a cop on foot and after being subdued, it is discovered that he was carrying his dead baby daughter: all he wanted was a proper burial for his daughter but the cops were spending resources on deporting anyone who looked illegal. Anyone without proper papers is immediately questioned and detained. Adam watches this incident and the ensuing media coverage on TV with Dana but is unfettered: this will never happen to him. He is not going to let the political goings-on impact him. He is confronted by the empathetic Dana, is told that she carries his child, but is leaving him because she considers him to be an unfit father.

The deadline looms and the loss of his pregnant girlfriend turns him in to a lunatic. He projects his sadness on to protecting Emma. He needs sole custody. With a gun. In Trump Land, buying a gun legally is easier than eating apple pie. He decides to kill Clarice.

While Adam plots to single-handedly kill Clarice in her neighborhood, unknbenowst to him. the Neo-Nazi rally continues in Austin sub-urbia, in Clarice’s neighborhood, which is heavily immigrant-based (although, legal). The Neo-Nazi crowd can’t tell the difference between the “illegal” immigrants and the “legal” immigrants; their frustration with all well-to-do immigrants is evident here. Adam notices the Nazi crowd heading towards Clarice’s neighborhood, with scared residents. The police is on stanby and glibly believes that it will be a peaceful demonstration. As the crowd approaches the streets, it is evident that they will turn violent. Adam unlocks the gun and goes in to Clarice’s house: not to kill her, but to get her, Emma and her family out of there safely. They escape but in the process, a Neo-Nazi organizer notices the gun on Adam and shoots him. It is his colleague. The police will not standby the violence this time and immediately pounce at the agitators and apprehend them.

During the last few moments before he shuts his eyes, he holds Clarice closely and reminds her to take care of Emma. There are several policemen in protective gear that surround the family.

One week later: Adam wakes up in the hospital. Dana is sitting next to him, holding his hand, with head in the bed. The TV in the background reports news that Trump has ordered all big city mayors, with Congress’s approval to evict and deport all immigrants in sanctuary cities. No more illegal immigrants will be tolerated, in any city. Clarice walks in with Emma and Emma jumps in to bed next to Adam. After they leave, he sits alone in bed with a laptop, and signs the form to get Emma tested psychologically. He has learned his lesson about holding on to old stigmas – which only hurt people.

Next day: Adam walks in to his boss’s office, tells him the truth and resigns. He’ll lose his green card.

He’d rather be an illegal.