

# Chapter 4

1. If you only write what you know then you'll continue to be boring. You will come off as uneducated. As a screenwriter you will need to do research on your subject and the people that you want to appeal to.
2. Being able to understand the humanity in people. Writing about experiences and difficulties that everyone can identify with.
3. Analyze people, read books, and watch movies. All of these activities allow for the writer to get a better understanding of characteristics and expand the possibilities for their own characters developments. The most important thing to making a character relatable or believable is by using contradicting characteristic traits. The audiences doesn't like when one of the main roles in a movie is completely good rather they enjoy when an actor posses traits from opposing ends of the spectrum.
4. The main thing to make your story go beyond the spectacle is to have a motivation behind the characters as to why they are doing what they're doing. The audience wants to feel that drive and desire with the character and relate. Although, it is still important to have visuals and special effects but really work what is happening with the characters behind all the spectacles.
5. A balance of an inner and outer focus.
6. The outer focus of the story comes from the dialogue and the characters actions. These speeches and actions are specifically aimed for the audience to pick up on so that they can begin to understand and connect to the characters. In contrast, the inner focus of the story is all about the structure of how you choose to write your story. The writer needs to develop a story that follows a guideline and involves events leading up to an ultimate resolution.
7. The biggest mistake a writer can make is to write their story as if it is a book. A screenplay is to be and outline; a blueprint. Writing a movie doesn't involve long descriptions and imagery like a book. All that is required is very brief descriptions of actions and settings.
8. Short, simple, and to the point sentences. Your script should just be very brief and easy to read but also exciting and fun. You want action verbs. You need enough detail of the characters for them to remain interesting while also being concise. The main structural elements of a script include setting, plot, character, pace, etc. As a writer you must be able to blend these elements well. Making sure you don't place the most important events of the story too early or too late.
9. It is important to know Hollywood's upcoming trends in order to pitch your idea. You don't want to create a movies completely based off the idea of a recent movies success. You need to research what is the latest trend and then create something new that goes along with it. As well as research all about the history and background behind your idea so that you're confident in your knowledge when you pitch.
10. The synopsis is a brief summary of your story. Start off strong with a hook to get the audience's attention. Introduce your main characters in the beginning and relate the other characters and their involvement with the protagonist/protagonists. Make your synopsis urgent and exciting. Finally, end your synopsis with a climax so that you leave the audience intrigued.
11. Creative discipline is forcing yourself to sit their and write and just keep writing even when you're distracted and frustrated. The more you practice and write the better your writing will become. You must be able to sit down and write for hours at a time or you're never going to get anywhere. Make your writing your main priority and think of it as a job.

