

1.) Explain the problem with only "writing what you know". How will you, as the screenwriter, go about creating stories that exist outside your realm of experience?

Initially, it may seem like a good idea. And it is as a beginner. However, sticking to this theory, solely, can limit or skew one's perspective and vision for the story.

A method of avoiding limitations is to seek out new experiences, differing perspectives via research, and inspiration from external resources.

2.) Explain what makes a fantastical story believable.

A story that is believable, no matter how fantastical, is achieved with characters that are relatable and believable.

3.) What tools are needed to write "believable" characters?

A writer has to establish, or identify, what is relatable in people and their personalities, behaviors, and dialogue. Bringing these elements to the character is what will make them believable and real.

4.) How do you move a story idea beyond simple spectacle?

Stories that are focused around what it is to be human; desires, needs, and experience, is another element of moving a story beyond spectacle or idea. (Creating something real and relatable.)

5.) What ingredients are necessary to create a compelling story?

Key ingredients needed to create a compelling story are; constant audience interest, and relatable characters with motivations or actions that feel authentic. One wants the audience to want to stay engaged to know how the story ends and what will happen with the characters.

6.) Explain the difference between the inner and outer focus of the story?

Inner Focus - is the sequence of elements in a story and how they fit together.
Outer Focus - the "bigger picture" of the story; drama, comedy, irony, disaster.

7.) What is the biggest mistake new writers make? Why is it a problem?

Most new writers mistakenly write their screenplay like a novel, or prose. They write too much detail, direct from the page, and explain too much.

Scripts should really only contain the pinnacle information in telling the story; key events or scenes and characters. The rest is what will come from the collaboration of working with the film crew and actors, etc.

8.) What are the structural elements to a script?

Structural elements to a script consists of three acts. Contained within those three acts are the plot of the story, the characters (main and supporting), setting (environment), pace (speed of scenes and plot), dialogue.

9.) Why is it important to predict Hollywood trends?

It's important to be aware of, and try to predict trends in Hollywood, as it will determine if a script will sell or be passed on. And one doesn't want to misread the trend or be late to it.

10.) Describe what a synopsis should entail?

Synopsis of a film should tell the entire story, sans dialogue or scenes. Usually, a synopsis is no more than two pages.

11.) What is creative discipline? Why is it important?

Talent is great, but with out creative discipline, it won't go anywhere or develop beyond an idea. Creative discipline allows one to channel their creativity with structure.