

## Chapter 4 Quiz

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**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?**

The problem with only "writing what you know" is that eventually you will run out of material to write about. There are not that many ways to tell the same story. As a screenwriter I plan to do as much research and interviews as needed to be able to accurately tell the story in a creative way. I want to use real emotion in every story I tell.

**2. Explain what makes a fantastical story believable.**

A fantastical story becomes believable when the characters express emotion pertaining to the situation that they run into. Everything must come from a genuine human emotion in order for the audience to be able to relate.

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

The tools you need to make believable characters are basic traits for your character, that can help explain why they would react as they did in that situation. For example, if your character is a very jealous, violent and spiteful person, it's believable that they would find their cheating spouse, try to hurt them (whether physically or emotionally) then go out and cheat on them also, just to get "back at them"

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

There are many things you can do to move your story idea beyond simple spectacle. Audiences don't care much about the settling, although something cool to look at never turned anyone off. Audiences are more interested in the storyline. To move beyond simple spectacle your film should have big arcs and motivation that the people can relate to. The emotions and needs of the characters should be something the audience can relate to.

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

The ingredients needed to create a compelling story are believable characters, ones who we can relate to or see why they feel that way, or reacted that way. We also need dramatic scenes that keep the audience on the edge of their seat. We need a storyline that we, as writers, can see and understand. The better we understand the story, the better the experience for the audience.

**6. Explain the difference between the "inner" and "outer" focus of a story.**

The outer focus of the story focuses on all the characters and events that take place. We hope that it will keep the audience interested.

The inner focus of the story is how you arrange the scenes and elements to have it move from point A to point Z. You want to make sure the story is easy to follow, so you don't lose your audience on the way. You must truly understand what an audience wants to see to successfully pull the inner focus into view.

**7. What is the biggest mistake beginning writers make? Why is it a problem?**

The biggest mistake that beginning writers make is writing the screenplay as if it were a novel. Novels are very lengthy and descriptive. In a novel, they only use words to tell the story and therefore it makes sense to be extremely long and descriptive. In film, you have a story being told by pictures. With that being said a screenplay should have enough imagery to get the point across while moving onto the next point in your story. You don't want to lose your audience because of describing the scene, let production take care of showing the scene. Your script is a blueprint of your story. If your script is too "wordy" no one is going to want to read it. Once you lose your audience, you have nothing.

**8. What are the structural elements of a script?**

Of course, the first "structural element" of a screenplay would be the "3-act structure". Included in that structure would first, be the plot, what happens and why. It helps to have your plot points drawn out so you can easily transition forward through plot point to plot point throughout the story. Secondly, character, well defined and very human. They make mistakes, they have downfalls, as well as strong points. Make them relatable. Third is setting and time, where and when did this take place? Last but not least is dialogue, what exactly did the character say, and you should know why they said it.

**9. Why is it important to predict Hollywood's upcoming trends?**

It is important to predict Hollywood's upcoming trends because that is how you will best be able to sell your script. If something was really big this year, chances are they won't still be "in" when you're ready to pitch your script. You want to be able to set the next trend. With that being said research a couple different topics thoroughly until you find one that is interesting.

**10. Describe what a synopsis should entail.**

A synopsis should be a general overview of your story in a few pages or less. That means that you're going to have to leave out descriptions of scenes. You want your synopsis to tell your story without giving away specific scenes or dialogue from your script. You want your synopsis to be double spaced and to look crisp and clear. You want to set up the story, tell it and then leave the reader wanting more.

### **11. What is "creative discipline? Why is it important?**

Creative Discipline is the ability to get up every day and just write away. To work on the story every day for several hours. You have to give yourself a set schedule of when you're going to write and for how long. For example 4 to 6 hours a day for six days every week! It is important because then you are putting the time specifically for your screenplay. By doing this you will also find out what time is best for you and your creative time.