

Chapter 8 - Stages of a Production - Quiz

1. In your own words, what are the six stages of filmmaking, and what is each stage's role in the process?

The six stages of filmmaking are development, financing, pre-production, production, and marketing and distribution. The development stage is the start of the entire process. It is when you first come up with the idea and start writing from the first draft to the process of re-writes. Financing is the stage after you finish the script. This is when you find the studio or independent way on financing your film and getting the budget needed. Pre-production is the stage after you get your money to make the film. During this stage, you get the money/permission to use and rent what you need. Production is simply when you are on the set making the actual film. Post-production is the stage of taking everything you have and putting it together to make the film whole. This includes all the raw footage and editing it together. Marketing and Distribution is a very important step. This is the stage of advertising your film to get people to come to the theater and watch it.

2. How many phases can development be broken into? What are those phases and what is their significance?

The phases of development can be broken into the idea phase, the writing phase, and the re-writing phase. The significance behind the idea phases is coming up with the idea and turning that idea into a story. The writing phase is writing the first draft and getting the main idea behind it. Then the process of re-writes, which takes the longest, but this is the phase that gets you to start the rest of the stages of filmmaking going.

3. What causes a script to get caught in “development hell”?

A script gets caught in “development hell” when you are not able to get it done. Whether that’s not being able to finish it while writing, hiring a writer who is not finishing it, or spending too much money getting it off the ground. Whatever it is, the best way to stop development hell is to get out and start on a new project. Then, when you have more money or know better people to help in the development, return to it.

4. What is the difference between a “producer” and an “executive producer”?

A producer’s job is to get the story on the screen. The producer is in charge of finding the screenwriter or hire a writer, then find the people with the money. The executive producers are sometimes the people giving the money and ask to be titled as “executive producer”. What I’ve learned is, if it gets you the money you need, who cares how many ‘executive producers’ you have.

5. What positions make up a producer’s original staff? What does each position do?

Other producers like associate producers, co-producers, and co-executive producers are usually given out as favors and are part of the producer’s staff.

6. Explain the difference between “linear” editing and “non-linear” editing.

The difference between linear editing and non-linear editing is that non-linear uses systems like Avid and Final Cut Pro. Non-linear editing is being able to access any frame in a video clip. The linear method is considered tape-to-tape editing.