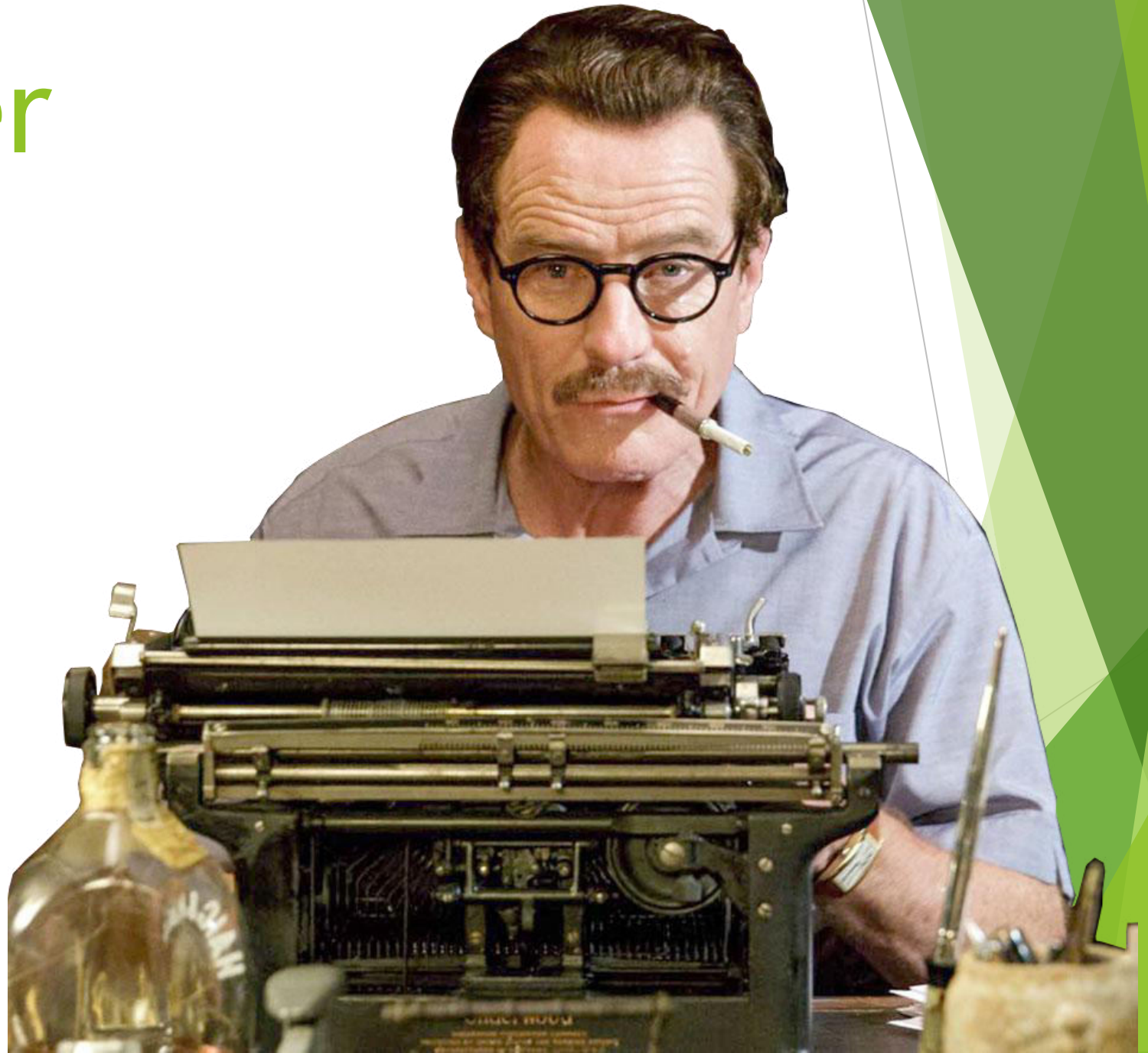


BELL WORK

- ▶ Write 3 things you already know about movie scripts.

Screenwriter

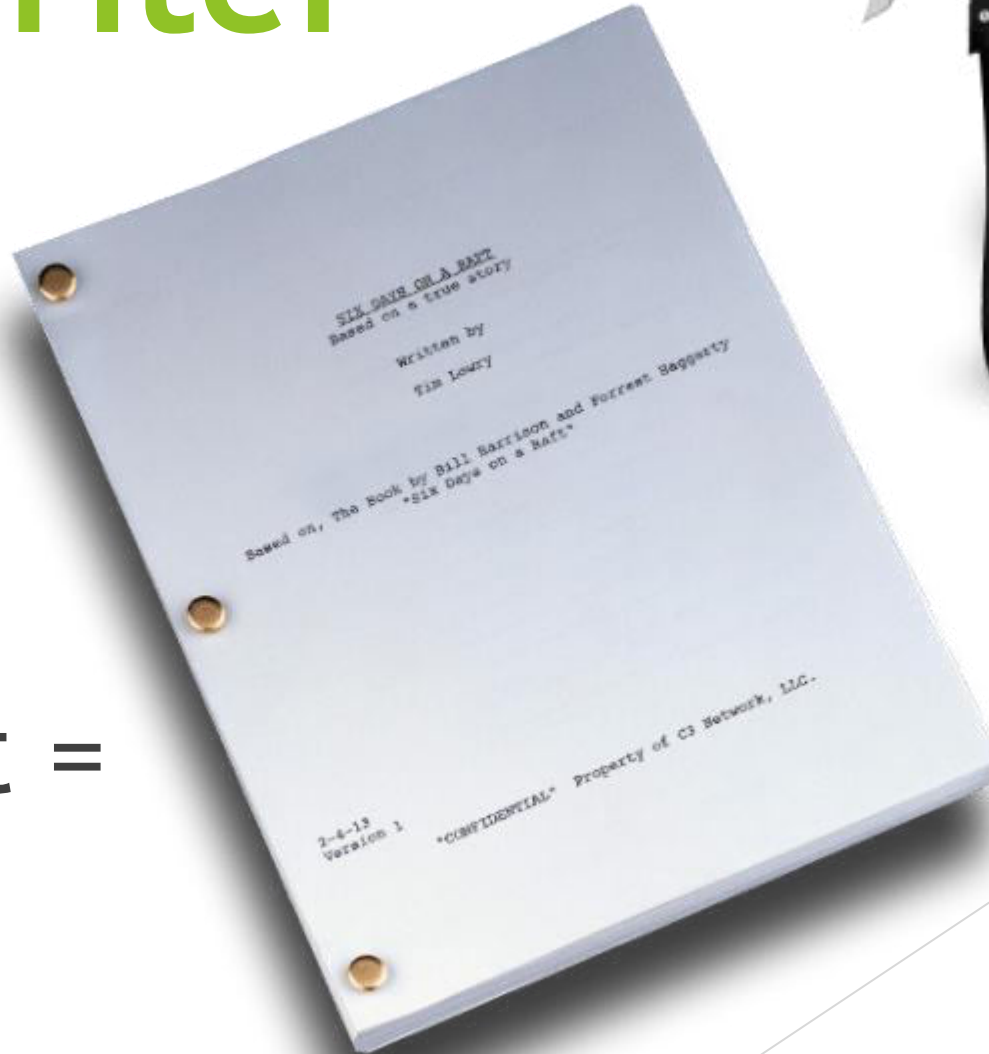
Writing Movies



Life as a Screenwriter



- ▶ Average Low Budget Script = \$60,000



The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic feel.

Narrative Screenplay Formatting

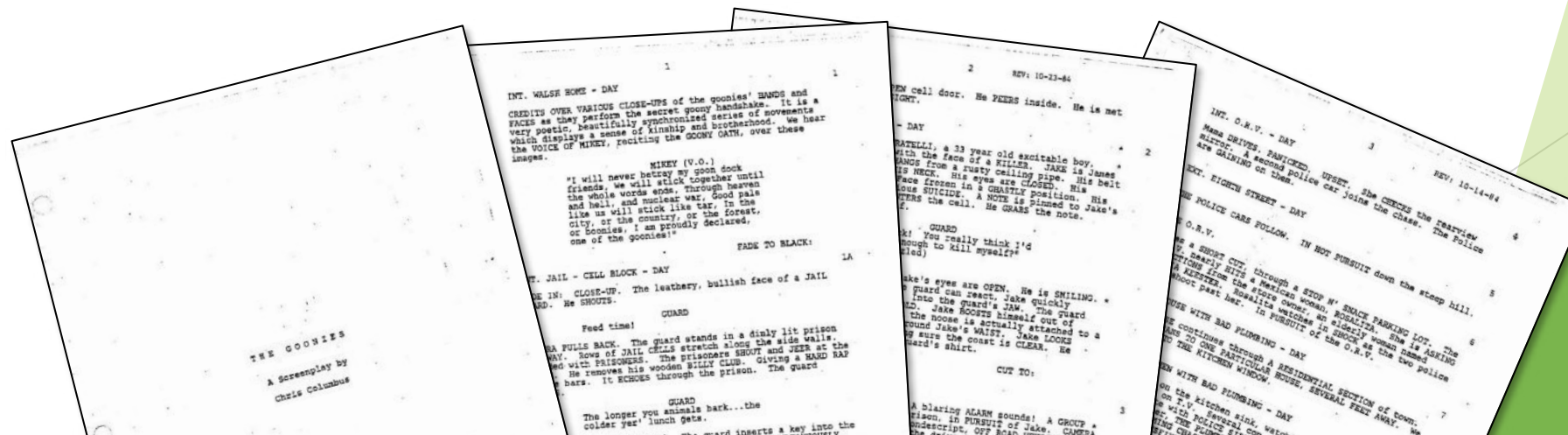
Not your Normal Writing

Today's Objectives

- ▶ Students will identify and discuss the specific formatting details of a traditional narrative movie script.

The Screenplay Format

- ▶ What do you see?
- ▶ What features makes the screenplay unique?
- ▶ How is it different than a novel?



Screenplay Elements

EXT. SANDLOT - DAY

Scene Header / Slugline

The guys are waiting in the dugout as Yeah-Yeah and Squints run over. Yeah-Yeah tosses Benny the ball.

Scene Description/Action

BENNY

Character ID

What took you so long?! We been
here forever already!

Dialogue

YEAH-YEAH

Squints was pervin' a dish.

SQUINTS

Shut up, I wasn't!

YEAH-YEAH

Yeah-Yeah you were! Yer tongue was
hangin' outta yer head and you was
swoonin'!

(swoonin')

Oh-oh Wendy Peffercorn my darling
lover girl...

Dialogue Parenthetical

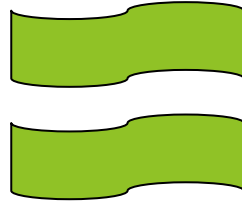
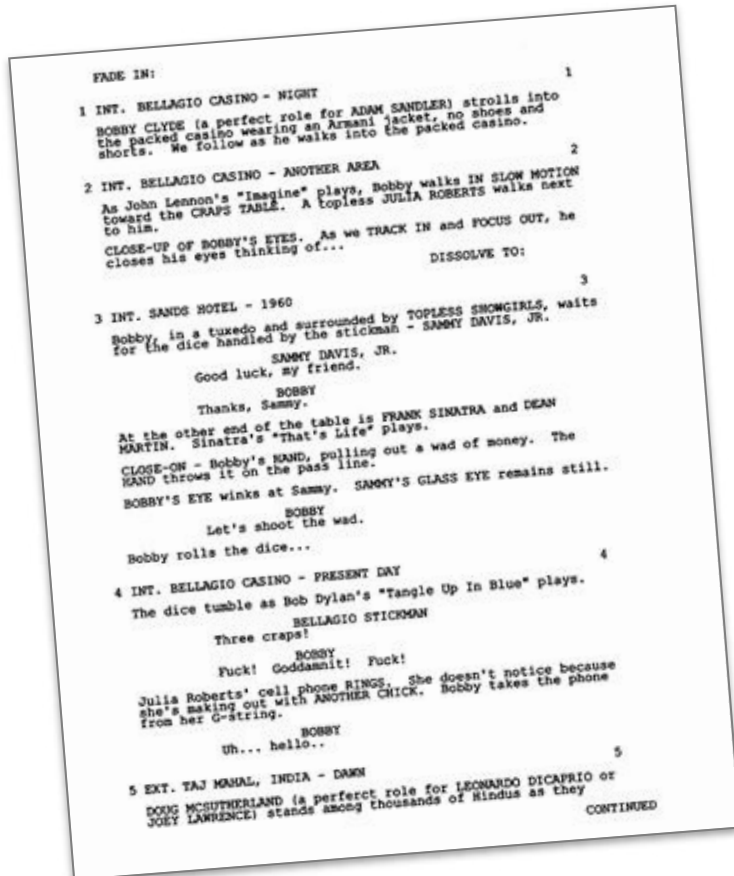
HAM

I can't take it no more, Benny.
I'm bakin' like a toasted cheeser!

BENNY

Screenplay Font

Courier (12pt size)



The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes in various shades of green, creating a modern, layered effect on the right side of the slide.

This is a Font

This is a Font

(comparing Times New Roman with Courier New)

Writing in Present Tense



INT. CITY GRILL - DAY

Leonard opens his eyes. Natalie is looking at him. She nods and hands him the BROWN ENVELOPE.

NATALIE

I wrote an address in there, too. Might be useful. It's this abandoned place outside of town. I guy I know used to use it for his bigger deals.

Writing in Present Tense

- ▶ No matter when, it's always happening NOW on screen...



Formatting a Script...

- ▶ Screenplay elements:
 - ▶ Slug-line (heading)
 - ▶ Transition
 - ▶ Action/Scene Descriptor
 - ▶ Character Parentheticals
 - ▶ Dialogue Parentheticals
 - ▶ Dialogue
 - ▶ Character Names



BELL WORK

- ▶ Describe a conversation of intense emotion between you and a friend/family member?

(it doesn't have to be real)

Adapt your Bell Work into a line of dialogue with a Parenthetical.

EXAMPLE :

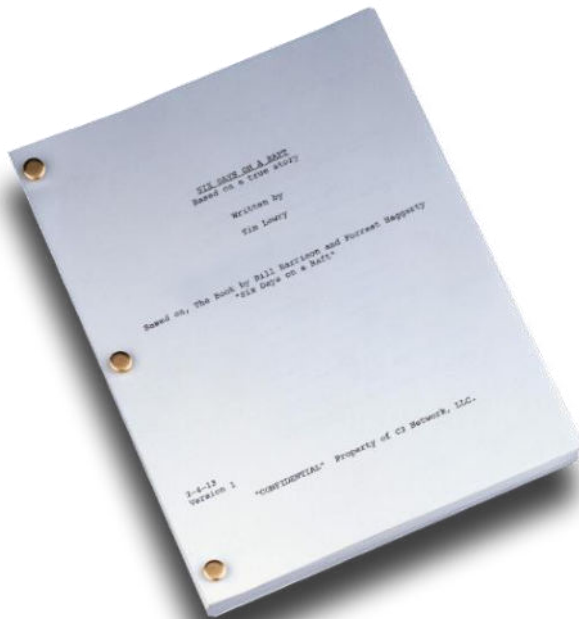
TIMOTHY

(a little annoyed)

So Dad... Can I ask you about you
and mom's divorce?

Practice Script Writing

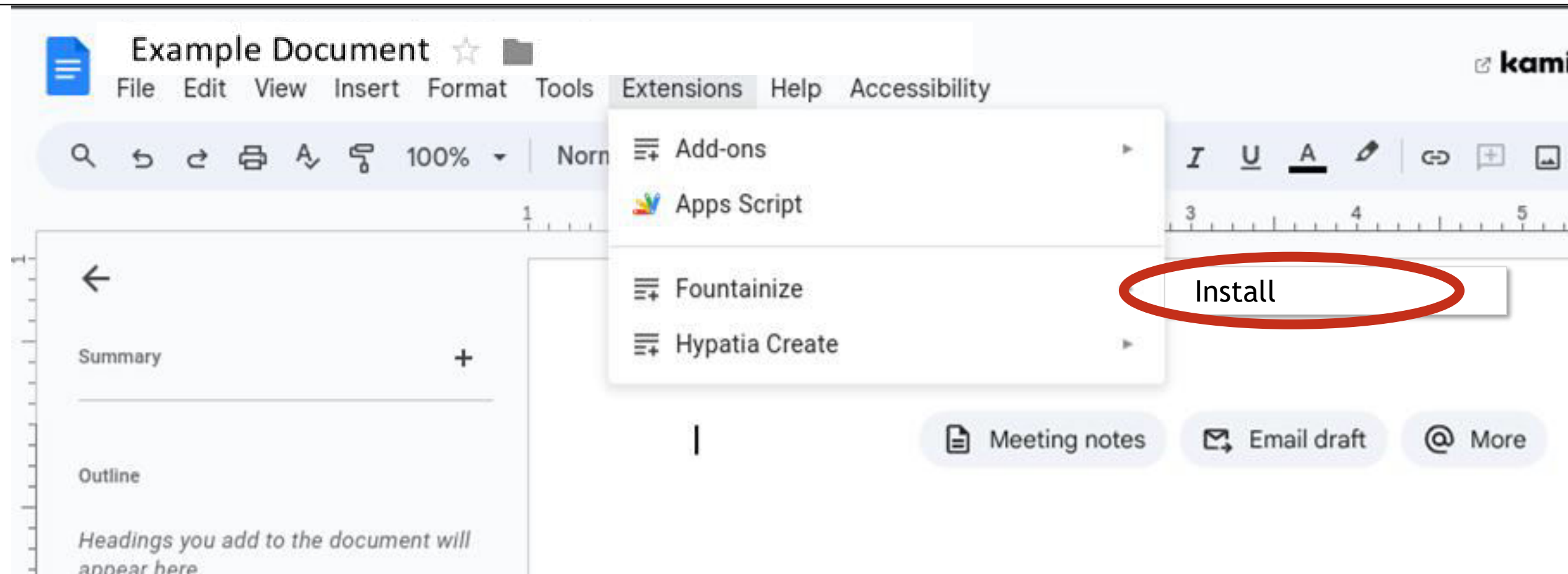
Not your Normal Writing



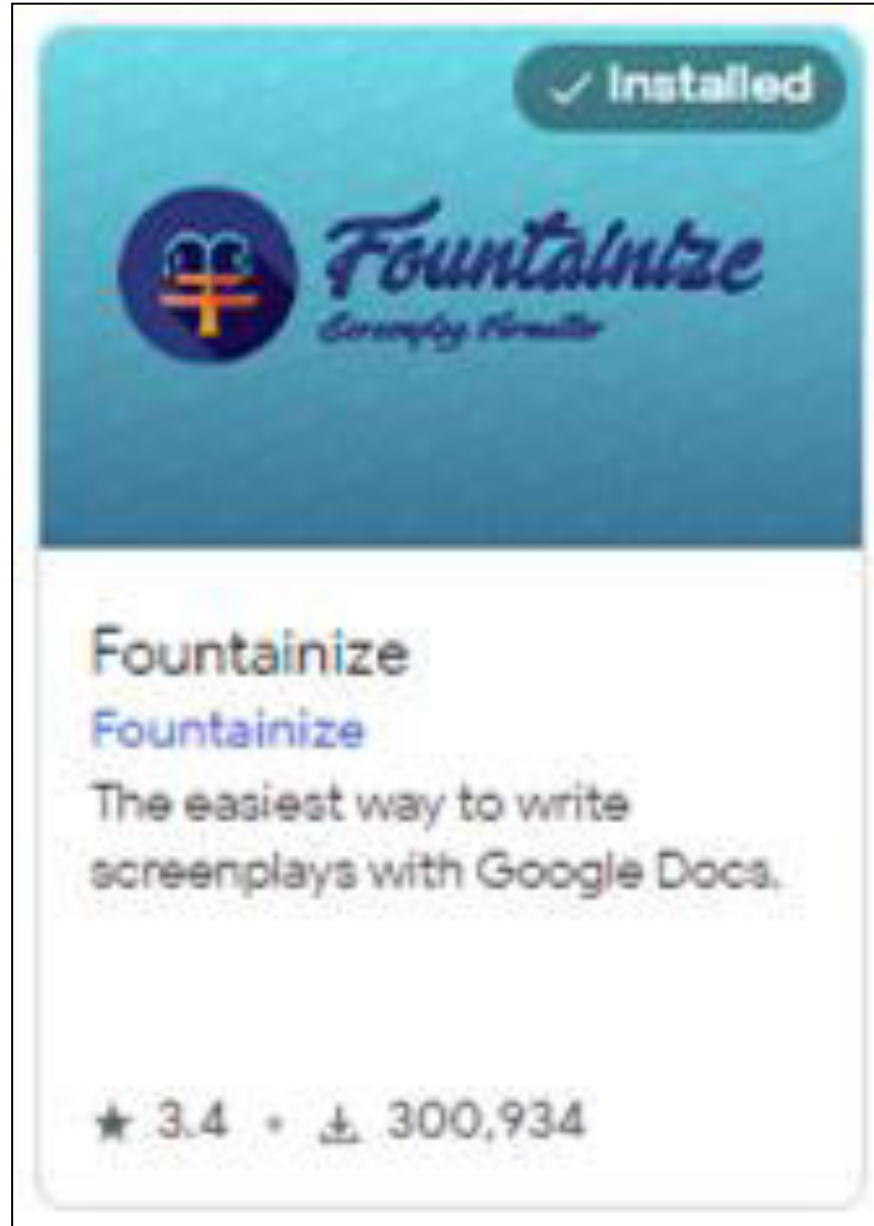
Today's Objectives

- ▶ Write several scenes using screenplay formatting.

Download Fountainize



► Google Doc Extension



Scene Header Format Page

Start the line with "int." or "ext." IN ALL CAPS

ex. *INT. A SMALL DARK ROOM - DAY*

Character ID

Write in all capital letters, with no punctuation at the end (can be switched off in options)

ex. *SAMANTHA*

Dialogue

A line immediately following a Character or a Parenthetical is considered dialogue.

ex. *I don't think I'll go to the store today.*

Parenthetical

Start the line with a bracket
ex. *(whispering)*

~~Transition~~

~~End the line with "in:", "to:", or "out:"~~

~~ex. *FADE TO:*~~

Action

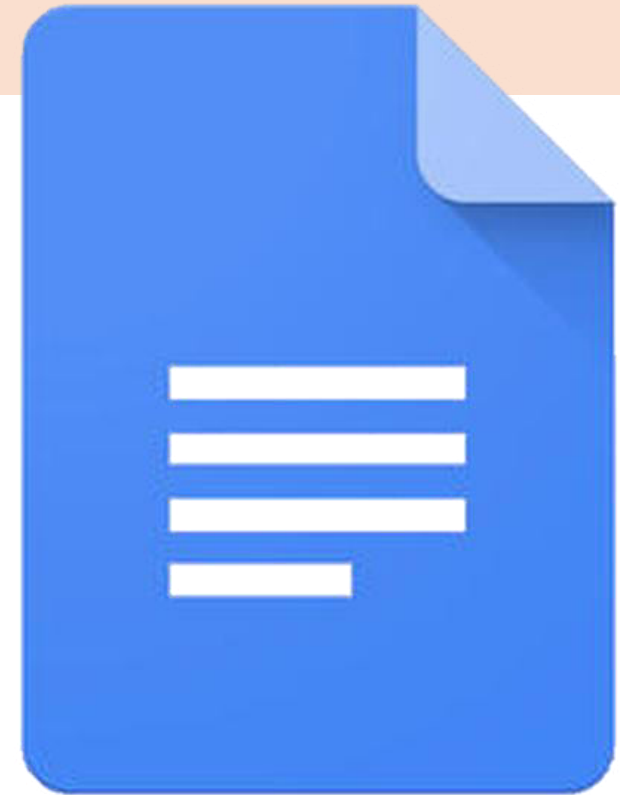
Anything that is not formatted as above

ex. *A man bumps into JAMES.*

Screenplay Practice Activity

STEP 1: Create/Start

Each student starts their own original Google Doc script, writing a scene header for their story.

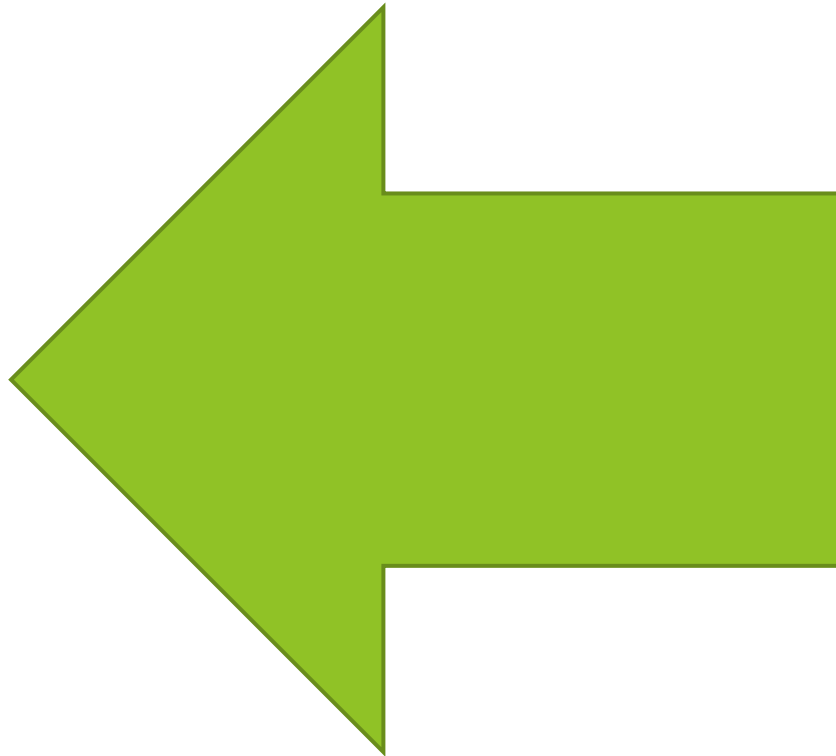


For example:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY – DAY

STEP 2: MOVE

Stand up and move to the computer on your left.



STEP 2: Write a Scene Description

Write a Scene Description that matches the theme and fits the provided “Slugline.”

*DON'T ADD ANY CHARACTERS YET,
JUST DESCRIBE THE SETTING*

STEP 2: Write a Scene Description

For example:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Students are standing around in the hallway. Several students are standing by themselves listening to music with headphones. One student stumbles down the hallway holding his diorama. Everyone is moving slowly, still tired from just waking up.

STEP 3: Introduce Two Characters

- Move to the computer on your left...
- Introduce TWO characters and describe what they're doing.

STEP 3: Introduce Two Characters

For example:

MR. INGOLD, a teacher dressed in yellow dress shirt, tie and brown slacks, walks through the hallway carrying his school bag. He walks by JIMMY, a student sitting on the ground against the wall with a couple of his friends.

BELL WORK

- ▶ Write a “slugline” for an action movie that takes place somewhere in the city?
(INT/EXT. LOCATION -
DAY/NIGHT)

STEP 4: Write a Line of Dialogue

- Now at the next computer...
- Choose one of the characters; have them say something.

For example:

JIMMY

Hey Mr. Ingold!

STEP 5: Write a Line of Dialogue

- Now at the next computer...
- Choose the other character introduced earlier and write a response to the dialogue just written.

For example:

JIMMY

Hey Mr. Ingold!

MR. INGOLD

Hi, uh... What's your name again?

STEP 6: Write some Action

- On the script to the left...
- Write what happens next.

For example:

JIMMY

Hey Mr. Ingold!

MR. INGOLD

Hi, uh... What's your name again?

Jimmy gets upset and throws his pencil in the air. Mr. Ingold grabs it out of the air and places it back down on the ground.

STEP 7: Dialogue

Add 2 lines of dialogue.

For example:

Jimmy gets upset and throws his pencil in the air. Mr. Ingold grabs it out of the air and places it back down on the table

JIMMY

Whoa Mr. Ingold, that was amazing!

MR. INGOLD

(unimpressed)

Don't you forget it!

STEP 8: New Scene Header

Now you're starting a new Scene. REMEMBER, a new scene is a new location/time.

For example:

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

STEP 9: Write Scene Description

Make sure to reference the 2 characters from the first scene.

For example:

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Jimmy is walking towards his bus when Mr. Ingold runs up behind him. He taps Jimmy on the shoulder.

STEP 10: Add Dialogue (as much as you need)

For example:

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Jimmy is walking towards his bus when Mr. Ingold runs up behind him. He taps Jimmy on the shoulder.

MR. INGOLD

Hey, I'm glad I caught you.

JIMMY

(upset)

What? I'm going to my bus.

MR. INGOLD

Jimmy, I'm sorry I forgot your name today.

Finish the script

- ▶ Without editing anything earlier, write a conclusion to the script, using as much dialogue or action as needed.

Screenwriting

Kahoot!

Intro Film/TV - BELLWORK

- Draw an Establishing Shot for your first Scene in your practice script.

Objectives

- Writing screenplays that show, not tell

SHOW

vs

TELL

Tips for Screenwriting

LEVEL 1 – Don't Write Thoughts

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

SARAH sits on her porch ~~thinking about whether to go for a~~
~~run or not. She knows that she needs the exercise, but she~~
~~also does not want to get all sweaty before her friends~~
~~come over in an hour. Instead of running, Sarah considers~~
~~just doing a quick yoga routine inside where it is cool.~~
~~She decides to do yoga. She plans to wake up early tomorrow~~
~~and run.~~



LEVEL 1 – Don't Write Thoughts

We cannot know what's in someone's mind.

::thinking::



INT. PUNCH BOWL PUB - ATTIC - ON HOLMES

As he plays the violin, Sherlock thinks about the case and about the murder. He can't figure out who the killer is, so he throws the violin on the ground. He wonders who it could have been. He starts smoking a pipe to help him think clearly. Finally, he realizes that Lord Blackwood is the connection.

100 INT. PUNCH BOWL PUB - ATTIC - ON HOLMES

as he plays the violin, but not with a bow. He plucks it, he strums it, he makes strange atonal sounds, as he STARES AT THE RITUAL PATTERN he's laid out on the floor.

Flashes to various images of the sphinx that he's observed over the course of the investigation.

He stands up and draws a sphinx in charcoal on the floor. Then he moves to the ox bone -- a flash of Sir Thomas' ring with the Ox crest. He draws an ox in charcoal. Next to the ox bone Holmes writes -- Sir Thomas -- OX ring.

Show vs "Think"

THINK

She is excited for school to end.

SHOW

Write Action that relays the intent of the scene.

Show vs “Think”

THINK

Jeremy can't wait for Christmas day to arrive. He loves Christmas.

SHOW

Write Action that relays the intent of the scene.

Show vs “Think”

THINK

Suzie is afraid of her dog Jellybean. She doesn't want to go near it.

SHOW

Write Action that relays the intent of the scene.

Show vs “Think”

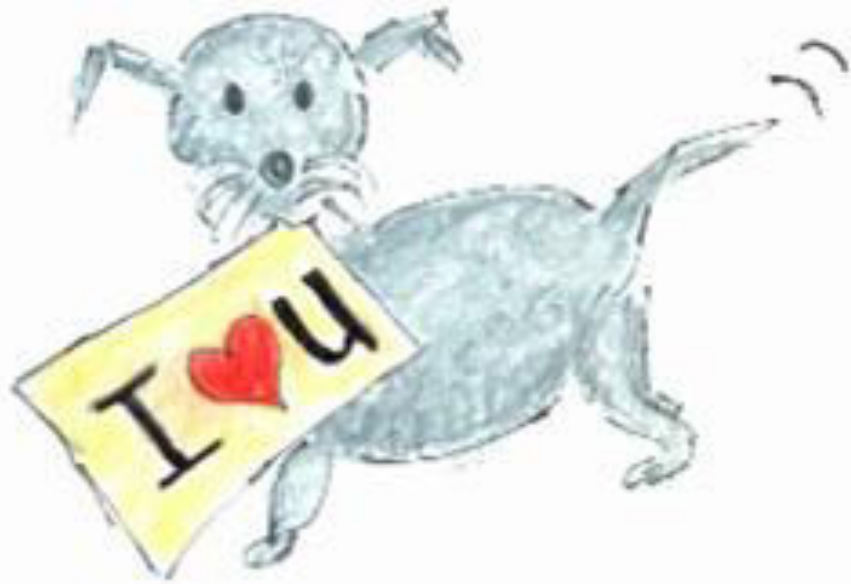
THINK

Lanie had a bad day and now she doesn't want to talk. She wishes she everyone would go away.

SHOW

Write Action that relays the intent of the scene.

LEVEL 2 – Actions > Words



To tell



To show

Show Vs Tell

- Telling
 - Stating facts or opinions
 - EXAMPLE: **“I feel happy”**
- Showing
 - Describes situation, creates mental image
 - EXAMPLE: **He closed his eyes and smiled.**

EXAMPLE

- Telling
 - “He is a talented singer”
- Showing
 - A description of a situation that shows he’s is talented, such as singing in a competition and winning



Star Wars V: The Empire Strikes Back

- The introduction of Han and Luke's relationship in this movie.



EXT PLAIN OF HOTH - DAY

A closer panning shot reveals a bundled rider on a large gray snow lizard, called a TAUNTAUN. Curving plumes of snow rise from beneath the speeding paws of the two-legged beast.

EXT PLAIN OF HOTH - SLOPE - DAY

The rider gallops up a slope and reins his lizard to a stop.

He pulls off his protective goggles. It is LUKE SKYWALKER. He notices something in the sky and takes a pair of electrobinoculars from his utility belt.

From LUKE'S POV, we follow a bright object as it falls to the ground. On the distant horizon, an explosion marks the point of impact.

The wind whips at Luke's fur-lined cap as he activates a com-link transmitter. His lizard is nervous.

LUKE

(to the Tauntaun)

Easy girl, it's just another meteorite.

(into com-link)

Han... Han ol' buddy, do you read me?

After a little static a familiar voice is heard.

HAN (OS)

(filtered)

Loud and clear, kid. What's up?

LUKE

I've finished my circle and I haven't
picked up any life readings.

HAN (OS)

(filtered)

There isn't enough life on this ice cube to fill a space cruiser. My sentry markers are placed. I'm heading back to the base.

LUKE

I'll see you shortly. A meteorite just hit the ground near here and I want to check it out... Won't be long.



Showing vs Telling

JANELLE

I don't want to be your friend anymore. I prefer to play by myself.

SANDY

I don't like you either. You were never nice to me anyway.

Write a scene without dialogue that conveys the intention of this dialogue.

Showing vs Telling

LARRY

I really like playing video games. Games are my favorite.

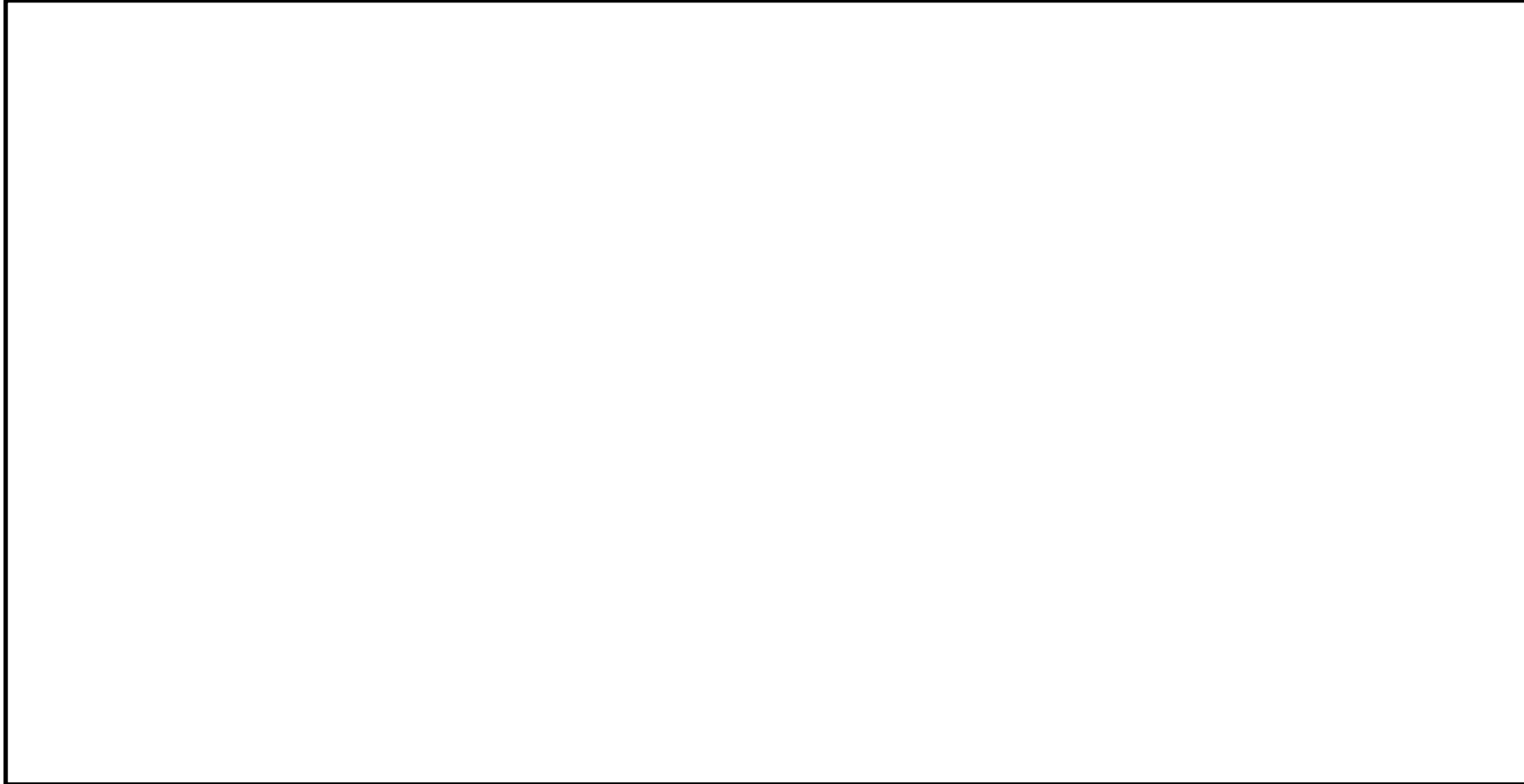
GRANDPA

I don't like it when you play video games.

Write a scene without dialogue that conveys the intention of this dialogue.

Showing vs Telling

SARAH
I love you.

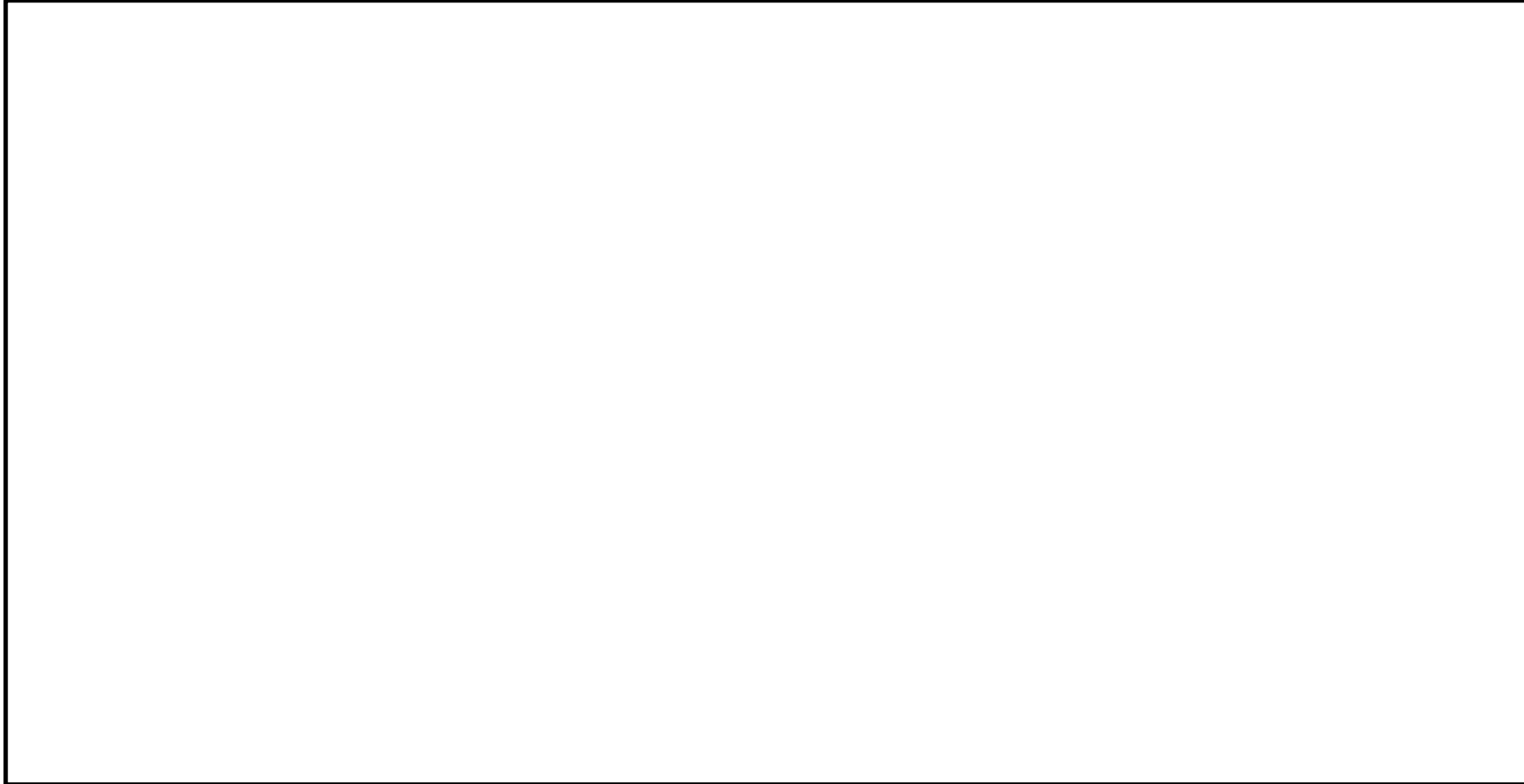


Draw a storyboard frame of action to replace the line of dialogue.

Showing vs Telling

Carrie

You're the most important
person in the world to me



Draw a
storyboard
frame of
action to
replace the
line of
dialogue.

Showing vs Telling

LEVEL 1 – Don't Write Thoughts

LEVEL 2 – Actions > Words

Showing vs Telling

BELL WORK

- In script format, write 5-8 lines of dialogue between you and your friend about what you're doing this weekend.

KID 1

Hey, what are you doing this weekend?

KID 2

I am probably just sleeping all day.

KID 1

Lucky! I have to wake up and do yardwork with my dad.

KID 2

Showing vs Telling

LEVEL 1 - Don't Write Thoughts

LEVEL 2 - Actions > Words

Showing vs Telling

Go to JOINPD.com

“Tell by Show” Activity

- Groups are randomly assigned a scenario
- Groups will act out a SILENT scene and the class will see if they can guess what’s being acted out

TABLE 1

TABLE 2

TABLE 3

TABLE 4

TABLE 5

Table Read



Screenplay Practice

- ▶ Go around the table and take turns sharing your scripts.
- ▶ Choose the best script to share with the class.
- ▶ Winning Script will be turned into an animation.

