

Videography

Short Film: Final Project

Iceberg Storytelling

Overview

For Sale: Baby Shoes, Never Worn.

This is Ernest Hemingway's infamous six-word short story, supposedly written after a bar room bet with a group of his contemporaries. It is also one of the finest examples ever conceived of "iceberg storytelling," where the writer gives the audience a sparse, stripped-down story with just enough information to fill in the details with their imagination. ([Source](#))

Your Task

1. Read the article, [How to Craft a Remarkable Short Film with Iceberg Storytelling](#).
2. Then, develop three six-word story ideas. Think also about what story will below the surface of the water.
3. Submit your story ideas in **order of preference** to me by email.
4. Make a decision as to your final story idea.

Developing Your Story Idea

Some suggestions and guidelines for story ideas.

- Most films involve a character who wants something. Something precludes the character from getting it so the character takes action to get what they want. **Action escalates and then resolves.**
- For example, in my TV show, the two main characters - Noah and Jacob start far apart as a result of "something" but by the end of the episode, get pulled closer together.
- Banned stories: documentaries, silent films, "Boy meets girl"/"boy wants girl"
- One fun way to develop a story: take whatever story idea you have - and make it the opposite.
- Don't be afraid to push the envelope. Safe stories make safe films and safe films don't bring in the box office (well, some of them do).
- Have fun with your story, your characters, and your shots. If you love your characters, you'll enjoy telling their story!

Storyboarding Your Idea

This is a two week module.

Overview

Your short film will be a disaster if you fail to plan each scene and each shot. Think of the arc of your short film. Keep in mind the [elements of short film structure](#). Focus on one issue/relationship. Don't forget a plot twist and a resolution.

Tasks

1. Create a free account on StudioBinder.
2. Create a new project in StudioBinder and share it with me.
3. Click on Write or Import Your Script. Remember to keep in mind social distancing guidelines.
4. You may then generate a shooting script.
5. Finally, use the Plan Your Shots feature to ... plan your shots.

Note:

Do not worry about the specific formatting of your script. The goal at this point is to get your words, actions, and story down on paper.

Pre- And Post-Production

This is it! You have your script and your shot list. Now you are ready to film!

Before you start filming,

- Be very mindful of social distancing.
- Vary your shots. Two people standing in front of a camera does not make for a good film.
- Push the envelope. If you tell a generic story, your film will be generic.
- Have fun!

Your final film should be no more than **three minutes**. A rubric for your film will be posted here, but, in general,

- Opening and closing credits.
- Opening and closing music (royalty free!)
- Establishing shots (royalty free!)
- Transitions between scenes where necessary.
- Quality video (using a selfie stick).
- Shoot landscape. No portrait shots!
- Quality audio!

Before submitting your final film, have someone else watch it. The viewer should be someone who will give you constructive criticism, not someone who will tell you "that's really good" (when it's not).

Use their feedback to make tweaks to your film. While it would be nice to be able to reshoot scenes, it is also not realistic given the current climate.