

Screenwriting: Long Form  
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April 17, 2007

**Assignment: Final Screenplay**  
**DUE: Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> by 5pm**  
**80 points possible**

### **THE FINAL DRAFT**

As the semester comes to a close, you'll be revising and polishing the rough draft of your screenplay and step-outline.

Your final assignment for the course is to complete Act I of your screenplay and a step-outline of your entire film. Both are due by 5pm on Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, in the box located just outside 323 Becker (my office).

The final screenplay should be properly formatted, with proper spelling and punctuation, and should include a title page (with a finalized title). The screenplay should also be bound with brads.

Your step outline should include every scene of your screenplay (including Act I) and can be stapled.

The final drafts should also demonstrate significant revision from your rough draft stage: tightening of dialogue, deeper character development, attention to pacing, and your first act should end with your first turning point.

Bear in mind that for this final draft, formatting, spelling, grammar, and punctuation all count!

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### **EIGHT RULES FOR WRITING FICTION**

1. Use the time of a total stranger in such a way that he or she will not feel the time was wasted.
2. Give the reader at least one character he or she can root for.
3. Every character should want something, even if it is only a glass of water.
4. Every sentence must do one of two things — reveal character or advance the action.
5. Start as close to the end as possible.
6. Be a sadist. Now matter how sweet and innocent your leading characters, make awful things happen to them — in order that the reader may see what they are made of.
7. Write to please just one person. If you open a window and make love to the world, so to speak, your story will get pneumonia.
8. Give your readers as much information as possible as soon as possible. To heck with suspense. Readers should have such complete understanding of what is going on, where and why, that they could finish the story themselves, should cockroaches eat the last few pages.

— Kurt Vonnegut - *Bagombo Snuff Box: Uncollected Short Fiction*