

Screenwriting: Long Form
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Assignment: Three Premises and a Filmography
Due Thursday, January 25th

THREE PREMISES

Your screenplay for this semester will begin with a premise, that is, your story stated in a single sentence. The premise is the basic concept on which your story hinges. The premise should describe the event that starts the action, offer an idea of the main character, and give a sense of the conflict and conclusion of the story.

Your task is to type up three possible premises for your screenplay this semester. Then, we'll workshop premises in groups to choose and develop the one that will become your final screenplay.

The premise should grab a reader—hook your audience into the story and encourage them to imagine how it might play out. So keep it simple, but active in tone, and make us want to see this movie made!

Here are some example premises:

The Godfather: The youngest son of a mafia family takes revenge on the men who killed his father and becomes the new godfather.

Star Wars: A young man uses his skills as a warrior to save a Princess and defeat the evil forces of a galactic empire.

Chain Letter (a spec script): A legal secretary, after being fired and dumped by her boyfriend, receives a chain letter, then send it to the people who wronged her only to find them dead the next morning.

FILMOGRAPHY

Your second task is to type up a list of at least 10 films that are relevant to your screenplay ideas in some way—genre, tone, character, snappy dialogue, slow pacing, etc. You'll use this list not only to help your classmates gain a better understanding of your style and vision for your screenplay, but also to write an analysis of one of your chosen film's story structure later in this semester. Choose your films carefully—you'll be spending extra time with at least one of them.