

Screenwriting: Long Form
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Assignment: Treatment
Due Thursday, March 1st

TREATMENT

A treatment is the telling of your screenplay's story in concise prose form. It's often a sales tool, a way of sharing your story in a highly readable but brief form. It's a longer-form, entertaining synopsis that will often accompany an oral pitch.

The treatment doesn't list every step of the story, but emphasizes crucial moments, key events, and the emotional peaks and valleys of your characters. It's the essence of the screenplay, designed to entice producers and studio execs to ask for more.

Focus on the main characters, and try not to get bogged down in plot details.

For this assignment, you will create a 3-4 page treatment for your screenplay. You can use the treatment for "The Mask of Zorro" on the Wordplay website as a sample (see URL in syllabus).

You may use any font or layout you like for this assignment—but make it easy to read and visually appealing. Chapter, section, or even act headings are options too if you feel they make your treatment flow more smoothly.

Remember that you are writing for an outsider unfamiliar with your main idea. How will emphasize the major themes of your screenplay? The primary conflict? The character arcs? You may choose to conclude with a paragraph that reaffirms and clarifies these elements.

The treatment should be engaging to read, but leave no mysteries. You're telling us the whole story, so make it compelling to the end.