

17. The role of writer

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The writer is responsible for developing ideas and concepts, research, treatment, and the creation of the script. Although their primary role is during the pre-production phase, they also play an important role in the production and post-production phases. If a student is taking on the writing role, the script should (in almost all cases) have dialogue as an aspect of the work. Even silent films require a dedicated writer who helps to describe and determine action, create inter-title sequences and plot the overall narrative of a film.

The filmmaking tasks associated with the role of writer are outlined below.

Possible tasks for writer

Tasks for the role of writer in this assessment task might involve, but are not limited to, the following.

Pre-production

- Brainstorm with the team regarding ideas, genre, concepts and group intentions.
- Research the chosen genre and any influences for the production of the film, identifying conventions and developing style for the film.
- Collaborate with the director on the vision or concept behind the film and use this as a guiding point for all decisions.
- Plan characters and decide how they will develop during the film.
- Write a pitch.
- Write a treatment.
- Write a correctly formatted script with dialogue.
- Attend any auditions and assist with decision-making regarding casting.
- Produce multiple drafts of the script and explanations regarding developments or changes.
- Assist the director with actor rehearsals to ensure that they are prepared for the production days.

Production

- Contribute to changes in the shooting script.
- Keep track of multiple drafts of the script with explanations of developments or changes.
- Assist the director when working with actors, including reading lines and rehearsals.
- Collaborate with the director regarding any on-site rewrites during production.
- Ensure the core production team has the most current version of the script.
- Keep notes of any challenges faced during shooting, and how they were solved.

Post-production

- Collaborate with the director and editor to provide further input, such as additional dialogue.
- Collaborate with the director and make a note of any changes that were made between the initial script and the final version, as well as an evaluation and justification of the changes.
- Attend a test screening to a new audience and make a note of reactions and suggestions to the final cut.