

ALWAYS HAVE A TITLE PAGE  
ATTACHED TO YOUR WORK

by

Your Full Name

FADE IN:

INT. LOCATION - DAY

This is your action line. Write what is happening that can be seen on screen. Don't waste words with what we can't see. Remind yourself this should be action, not description.

Start a new paragraph when you see fit. When a character appears for the first time, his or her NAME must be capitalized, followed by a 1 sentence description and age.

NAME

This is dialogue. Keep them short and believable.

After the character's introduction, their Name doesn't have to be in all caps anymore.

INT. LOCATION - DAY (SAME)

In your slugline (the line above), use either day or night. Don't be fancy unless it is absolutely critical where the sun is.

Leave out camera direction. Forget the effects and edits as well. They are secondary to what you are doing right now, which is putting down what is happening. Make notes by pen afterwards.

Keep in mind what the actors will be doing as well as what we will see on screen. Think about how you will communicate the critical actions and whether or not the shot will be achievable.

Unless you are writing a play, dialogue shouldn't dominate the page.

If you want to give a quick direction for the actor (ex. sadly, chuckles, skeptical...etc.), you can do the following.

CAPITALIZE

(short direction)

Dialogue should be written the way you want to hear the words said.

EXT. LOCATION - NIGHT

You can leave out the transition at the end of a scene. A new scene heading already signifies a "cut to." You only need to write down transitions such as the following.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END