

# Unit 04: Screenwriting –Narrative and Non-fiction

Content Area: **Music**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Marking Period 1**  
Length: **Ongoing**  
Status: **Published**

## Brief Summary of Unit

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Students will learn the basic principles of writing scripts and how the difference of writing for narrative film, documentary and short interview films. They will learn how to write dialogue and interview questions, and understand the format differences for narrative film and documentary style film development. Students will develop their scripts and present them in the proper format for the productions of their projects.

## Transfer

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## Essential Questions

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- • What are the differences in script formats?
- • What is a film script?

## Essential Understandings

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- • being prepared before an interview will show professionalism and organization.
- • getting performance and/or camera releases will eliminate permission problems once the film is completed.
- • it is important to know the differences in script formats.
- • the dialogue can have several meanings and subtexts.
- • writing a description of the action will help in creating the visual basis of a film.

## Students Will Know

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- • how to present a screenplay in 3 act form.
- • how to transpose the treatment into a finished script.
- • how to use proper script terminology when writing a narrative screenplay.
- • how to write a documentary or interview script.
- • how to write and execute a pre-interview.
- • how to write dialogue.
- • how to write questions for an interview.

- • the differences in script formats.

## **Students Will Be Skilled At**

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## **Evidence/Performance Tasks**

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- • create and write 4 log lines describing and synthesizing story interpretations of each of their projects.
- • demonstrate an understanding of screenplay formats by completing a graphic organizer listing and explaining script formatting vocabulary including shot types and location terminology.
- • demonstrate knowledge of the art of interview by writing questions and interviewing fellow students.
- • discuss and reflect on essential questions through discussion and writing in their Film Production Journal.
- • research and write a 2 page biographical paper on a screenwriter of their choice.
- • transpose four treatments and outlines into properly formatted scripts for their portraiture piece, commercial/PSA, documentary, and a narrative story. Projects.
- • write and complete viewing guides on various films and TV programs watched in class and at home.
- • write interview questions for a documentary and prepare pre-interview questions.

## **Learning Plan**

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- • Present samples of various scripts and discuss format differences.
- • Preview the essential questions and create a Film Production Journal that will follow students throughout the course.
- • Provide lessons on proper script terminology.
- • Read various script formats and .compare them to films, commercials and documentary filmmaking.
- • Use the internet to download movie scripts and detailed descriptions of movies.
- • Use the internet to watch digital stories to understand the proper tools needed to write engaging scripts.
- • Watch various documentaries including the Maysles' Bros and Michael Moore and TV news shows and discuss the formatting techniques.
- • Watch various films including Psycho and North by Northwest comparing subtext and meaning through dialogue.

## **Materials**

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## **Suggested Strategies for Modifications**

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