

## general assignment guidelines

I do not accept physical assignments, so please email all of your work to [wadenia@crc.losrios.edu](mailto:wadenia@crc.losrios.edu). Please send each of your assignments in an editable format such as Microsoft word or Pages. No .PDF or .WPS files! When saving your work, format the file name thusly, or I will not accept it:

Your Name\_Class Title\_Assignment#

*Ex:*

AdamWadenius\_FMS310\_Assignment#1

When sending your paper to me, format your email subject thusly, or I will not accept your paper:

Email Subject: Your Name\_Class Title\_Assignment#

*Ex:*

Email Subject: AdamWadenius\_FMS310\_Assignment#1

You are responsible for emailing your assignments by the start of class time on their assigned due dates. Upon receipt of your work, I will email a quick response to confirm it has been received. If I don't email you back, check your SPAM folders, and if it's not there, then you can email me again to double-check. You are not bothering me to double-check if your paper has been submitted; it's better to be safe than sorry!

## writing assignments

### *~ Assignment #1: Analyzing the Screenplay Paradigm ~*

Analyze the structure of *The Truman Show* as an example of Syd Field's screenplay paradigm. Write out a one-page summary of the film's set-up, confrontation, resolution and plot points I and II.

### *~ Assignment #2: Ten Film Scenarios ~*

Develop ten scenarios for the following genre/styles of film: horror, drama, comedy, action, western, documentary, avant-garde, musical, crime, and biographical.

### *~ Assignment #3: 500 word Character Biography ~*

Write a 500-600 word character biography for a character of your creation. Start with their interior aspects, and work your way on through their exterior aspects. Be sure to include details of your character's personal, private, and professional life. Articulate the dramatic need of your character, their point of view and attitude, and express any change or transformation that they will go through as your story progresses.

### *~ Assignment #4: The End and the Beginning ~*

How does your story end, and how does it begin? Write a few paragraphs about the end of your story, detailing the resolution. Do the same for the beginning of your story, describing how it sets up the situation, establishes your main character, and starts the action moving forward.

### *~ Assignment #5: Set-up Description ~*

Write a one-page description of the set-up of your screenplay, identifying the key incident, the inciting incident, and plot points I & II. How does your inciting incident set the story in motion? What does your key incident reveal about the story? How do the plot points further the action while simultaneously spinning it in new direction?

*~ Assignment #6: Writing Slug Lines ~*

Brainstorm some scenes for your first act, and write out 14 sample slug lines. Write out the main beats that occur, and include a few descriptive sentences for each that address the following questions: What is the purpose of the scene? What happens? How does it move the story forward? What characters are in the scene, and what is their purpose? Structure your scenes into a rough outline.

*~ Assignment #7: Creating a Sequence ~*

Sort through your sample slug lines and construct a 3-4 page sequence. Include a short paragraph that sets it up with a context. What is your narrative through-line? What is your sequence about? Where does this sequence fit into your screenplay? Remember to pay specific attention to how your sequence moves the story forward, and to what information is revealed about the character(s).

*~ Assignment #8: Identifying Television Franchises ~*

Watch four TV shows; two half-hour comedies and two hour-long dramas. Figure out the franchises (try not to choose obvious ones like *Law & Order*) and write them out. Identify the characters, who they have relationships with, and some of their character traits.

*~ Assignment #9: Sample Sitcom Headings ~*

Brainstorm some A and B (and C & D if necessary) story ideas for a sitcom, and write-out 10-15 sample scene headings. Describe the main beats that occur in each scene, and structure them into a rough outline.

*~ Assignment #10: Developing a Dramatic Franchise ~*

Brainstorm a franchise for a dramatic television series (different from your sitcom idea). Write out a paragraph or so that explains your series, and then write a short character bio (a few sentences or so) for four main characters and two minor characters. Who are your protagonists, and who are your antagonists? Write out 3 or 4 character traits for each of the characters in your story. Pinpoint the conflict between these characters, and describe, in a few sentences, how this conflict works to heighten the drama.

*~ Assignment #11: Twenty Key Questions ~*

Go through and answer each of the 20 key questions for two of the main characters, and two of the minor characters from your dramatic franchise idea.

*~ Assignment #12: Treatment or Show Bible? ~*

Choose whether you would like to write a treatment for a screenplay or teleplay, and write out a one-page synopsis of your idea, along with some brief character info.

*~ Final Project Rough Draft ~*

Turn in a rough draft of your treatment, along with a paragraph (or more) explaining where you feel you are at in the screenwriting process, any trouble you might be having, and some things you're still working towards developing. Don't be worried about having a polished effort here, as I'm expecting that these will be rough drafts that will need more work.