

Storytelling Workbook for Smartphone Filmmaking

Section 1: Finding Your Story

Exercise 1: Brainstorming Ideas

Write Down 5 Things You're Passionate About:

List 3 Unique Experiences You've Had:

Identify 2 Problems or Questions You Want to Explore:

Tip: Combine these ideas to create a unique story concept.

Exercise 2: Define Your Core Message

What do you want your audience to feel or learn after watching your film?

Example: "I want viewers to feel inspired to take action on climate change."

Section 2: Structuring Your Story

The Three-Act Structure

Act 1: Setup Introduce your characters, setting, and the central conflict.

Who is your main character, and what do they want?

Act 2: Confrontation Show the challenges your character faces.

What obstacles stand in their way?

Act 3: Resolution Resolve the conflict and show the outcome.

How does your character change or grow by the end?

Exercise 3: Outline Your Story

Create a brief outline of your story, including the three-act structure.

Section 3: Developing Characters

Exercise 4: Create a Character Profile

Name: _____

Age: _____

Background: _____

Motivation: What do they want?

Flaw: What's holding them back?

Transformation: How do they change by the end of the story?

Exercise 5: Write a Character Monologue

Write a short monologue (1-2 paragraphs) in your character's voice. What are they thinking or feeling at a key moment in the story?

Section 4: Visual Storytelling

Exercise 6: Plan Your Shots

Scene 1: Write a brief description of the setting and action. What visuals will convey the mood?

Scene 2: How will you show the conflict or tension visually?

Scene 3: What imagery will you use to resolve the story?

Exercise 7: Create a Storyboard

Create a visual representation of your story, using sketches or images to represent each scene.

Section 5: Refining Your Story

Exercise 8: Peer Feedback

Share your story outline or script with a friend or online community.

Ask: **Does the story make sense? Is the character relatable? Does the ending feel satisfying?**

Exercise 9: Edit for Clarity

- Cut unnecessary scenes or dialogue.
- Ensure every moment serves the story.

Section 6: Bringing Your Story to Life

Exercise 10: Write Your Script

Use this simple script format:

Scene 1: [Location/Setting]

Visuals: [Describe what the audience sees]

Dialogue: [Write the character's lines]

Sound: [Describe any background music or sound effects]

Bonus: Storytelling Prompts

- **"What If?":** What if your character discovered a hidden talent or secret?
- **"A Day in the Life":** Tell the story of an ordinary day with an extraordinary twist.
- **"The Journey":** Follow a character as they embark on a physical or emotional journey.