

SCREENWRITING COURSE - TV AND MOVIE SCRIPT BREAKDOWN

Here's how TV shows and movies break down in terms of units of action or time. You must respect this as you write. Remember, generally, one page equals one minute of screen time. Sitcoms, which are double-spaced (no one knows why!), may run longer as comedy plays faster than drama.

TV EPISODE – HALF HOUR

2 minute “teaser” or “cold opening”

3 x 6 minutes acts

2 minute “closer”

TV EPISODE – ONE HOUR

2 minute “teaser” or recap

4 x 10 minute acts OR 6 x 7 minutes (approx.)

2 minute “closer” or preview

MOVIE – 90 MINUTES

*N.B.- A “plot point” is a major turn on the story

Pg 30 – Plot point

Pg 30 – Plot point

Pg 30 – Plot point

MOVIE – TWO HOURS

Pg 40 – Plot point

Pg 40 – Plot point

Pg 40 – Plot point