SYNOPSIS is a one page pitch to interest others (investors, agents, contests) to request the script.

(What a synopsis contains)

- Label your paper with the word synopsis (in heading)
- Tell the genre of your script (in heading: comedy, drama, action, horror, sci-fi)
- Write in 3rd person (i.e., he, she, it)
- Do not include dialog
- Write in the present tense (convey action as it takes place)
- Include the time of the story (e.g., past, present, future)
- Include the story setting(s) (e.g., battlefield, inside active volcano)
- Include the place(s) where the story unfolds (e.g. the Rocky Mountains, Los Angeles, England)
- Include the main characters (e.g., protagonist, antagonist, love interest, etc.)
- Briefly describe the main characters (i.e., age, sex, & their part is in the story)
- Tell the story highlights (i.e., plot)
- Tell the core conflict (what is the major dilemma presented in the story)
- Write it in about 250 words (maximum of one page)
- Must be a compelling read (can’t wait to see what happens next)
- Make each sentence flow and lead into the next. It should not sound disjointed.
- Reveal the ending (DO NOT BE A SECRET KEEPER ***)
- Show action rather than tell (i.e., visually show the action of the characters emotion instead of using the word the emotion represents)
- Use Times New Roman or Arial, unless otherwise requested – 12 point.
- Use single line spacing with breaks between paragraphs within standard margins.

The test for any good synopsis is:

- Does it give an honest description of the story?
- Is it easily pitched to others?
- From a quick read is it easily understood?

*** (A good ending to your story is crucial—and it’s a selling point. Why? Agents / Producers / Investors are not waiting with bated breath for your twist ending. They don’t want to be teased; they’re looking to be enticed by great writing and a great story that makes sense and doesn’t fizzle out by the end.

A cover synopsis (i.e. DVD, Movie, TV) is written to intrigue a viewer into seeing the movie and in this type of synopsis no ending is revealed.)