

What is the Horror genre?

Horror is a genre which is intended to, or has the capacity to frighten, scare, disgust, or startle its readers or viewers by inducing feelings of horror and terror. It creates an eerie and frightening atmosphere. Horror is frequently supernatural, though it can be non-supernatural. Often the central menace of a work of horror fiction can be interpreted as a metaphor for the larger fears of a society.

Some sub-genres of horror film include action horror, comedy horror, body horror, disaster horror, holiday horror, horror drama, psychological horror, science fiction horror, slasher horror, supernatural horror, gothic horror, natural horror, zombie horror, first-person horror and teen horror.

What is brainstorming?

Think about what your story is about. Here are a few things to think about when coming up with an idea:

- **What your audience wants:** It's important to consider your audience: Who are they? What do they want? Ask each other about scary films. Who watches those sorts of films? What they would like to see? Someone in your group may give you the start of an idea that you could develop into a story. Tell each other a scary story.
- **There's a story out there:** Many films are based on true stories or events. Perhaps you or someone you know has a story on which you can base your film. Ask around, and see what stories you can find. If you can't find a story from people you know, look through a few short story collections; the stories there may inspire you.
- **What is possible:** Coming up with film ideas about aliens, monsters, and far away planets can be good if you own a spaceship, but you'd do better to consider the sorts of stories you can film with the locations and props you already have around you. For inspiration, look around and see what's available to you.
- **No idea is a bad idea:** Write down every idea you have because there is no such thing as a bad idea at this point of the filmmaking process. Any idea you think is bad could easily develop into something great. You may end up writing down loads of ideas you won't use for a while, but it never hurts to have more ideas than you need. Any idea that's useless for your current project could well inspire your next story.

What is a story?

A story is broken up into 3 foundational parts.

1. Orientation
2. Complication
3. Resolution

Orientation - **Person** (Characters) **Place** (Setting) and **Things** (All key props) The setting; the *atmosphere* and *world* of the story

Complication - The **problem** of the story, an 'intensification' of the what is going wrong. Complication builds up, accumulates, and develops the story.

Resolution - How the problem is solved or if it's not solved how the problem is REACTED too

How to write a script | screenplay?

It is important to SHOW ACTION through your 'script' as opposed to dialogue.

A **screenplay** is unlike a novel or stage play. It's primarily visual, which means your students are telling a story through images as much as dialogue.

Showing through action usually works better than *telling* through dialogue.

It is not important that you format the screenplay exactly, however there are many open source **free screenwriting** software programs available if you wish to write a detailed / Industry standard screenplay.

Remember Film is a visual medium

The **screenplay** will hone in on the imagery and emotional aspects of the scene. See the example on the next page.

bloodfest

Kids International Horror Film Festival

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1 INT. LOUNGE ROOM. NIGHT. 1

A girl, SASHA, six years old, is cutting her doll's hair with scissors while watching ABC2.

JOSHUA
Turn it down.

SASHA hears her brother yelling from afar and turns the volume up on the television.

A shadow crosses her as something passes by the lounge room window.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)
Turn. It. Down.

SASHA responds by again turning up the volume.

The door knob turns. A shadow of a knife is revealed.

SASHA continues to cut hair from the doll, the TV now blaring.

The shadowy figure looms over SASHA, a knife pointed.

SASHA looks up to the television to see the shadow's reflection. SASHA spins around and suddenly embeds the scissors deep into the shadow's heart.

The shadowy figure falls, legs twitching.

SASHA drops her scissors to the floor.

SASHA
Aaaaaahhhhhhh!