

## Formatting Basics for Screenwriting

There are 3 simple components to formatting: *headings, narrative description and dialogue.*

### Headings

#### Master Scene Headings

- Camera location (Exterior **EXT.** or Interior **INT.**)
- Scene Location
- Time (DAY or NIGHT)

### Narrative Description.

*Narrative, here means story. It consists of three fundamental factors:*

- Action
- Setting and Character (visual images)
- Sounds

### Dialogue

*The dialogue consists of three parts:*

- The character cue, or name of the person speaking, which always appears in CAPS.
- The Actor's direction. (This is optional.)
- The character's dialogue.

1 INT. LOUNGE ROOM. NIGHT. 1

[REDACTED] 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!

**PINK** is Headings,

**BLUE** is Dialogue

and **YELLOW** is Narrative Description