

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 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.)