

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.)