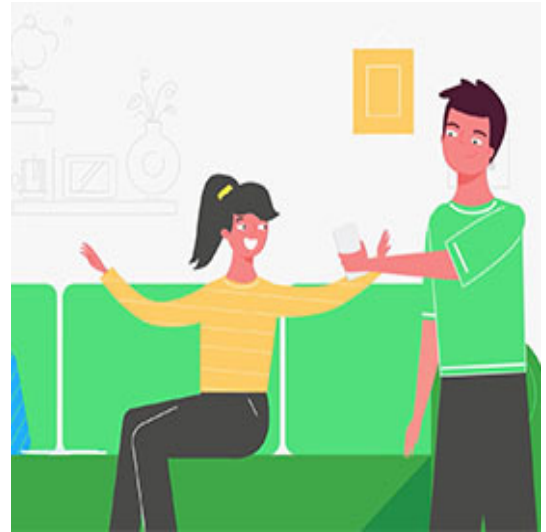# Script Writing Tips

Unless you are comfortable improvising your lines in front of the camera (and can get them right!), having a script when you're performing a play or making a movie is a great idea. But how do you write a script, and what essential elements form part of a good script?

1. **First, plan your outline.** If you want to tell a story with your script, you'll need to know your story and plot it out first. If you're planning on including some research in your script, work out what you want your audience to know, and in what order you want to share it. Having an outline is like having a map; it will tell you where to go with your script.

2. **What journey is your lead character going to take throughout your script?** Knowing what you want your lead characters to do or what actions you want them to take in your story is essential. Once you have worked out the details of the lead character/s, you can begin working out some of the other characters. You could even create little drawings of all your characters to help bring those characters to life for you. Understanding a bit more about your characters will help you 'get into their heads' and write for those characters. Give your characters their names and start adding their journeys to your script.

3. **Think about your story's setting.** Where is your story set and how does the setting affect the characters and story? Again, consider doing a drawing of your setting so you can see what your characters are working with. If your setting changes in your story, remember to write down when and how it changes in your script.

4. **It's time to start adding in some stage directions** so that the performers know what they're doing. Stage directions make it easier for your actors to practice their lines and understand the action that is occurring. They will also help the director to bring your script to life.

5. **Now it's time to start writing the lines.** You need to try and make your lines fit with the personalities and emotions of your characters, and with the stage directions you've already added. Think creatively when writing your lines, and think about how your lines can keep your story moving forward.

6. **Edit!** When you think you're finished, go back over what you've written and take out anything that doesn't relate to the story, even if it's fantastic.

7. **Hold a read through.** Ask some friends to read through the script for you, taking on different characters you've created. Listen closely to what works and what doesn't. Consider editing your script again to make it flow better and tell your story more smoothly.

8. **Now it's time to perform your script!**