

NFDC SCREENWRITERS' LAB: Web-Series, 2024

DEFINITIONS

This document has been prepared as a guideline for filling out the application form. Please read the definitions carefully before submitting your application to ensure that your submission materials meet our requirements.

Please bear in mind that all applications must adhere to both the minimum and maximum word limits in order to be accepted.

Please also note that all submission material (including script and dialogue) are required to be written in **English (dialogues included)** even if the final series is in any Indian language.

The submission requirements for the Screenwriters' Lab 2024 (Series) application are -

1. Logline (< 30 words)

A logline is a short description that provides the WHO, WHAT and HOW of the story. Loglines are often published on websites or printed in programme guides.

For example:

The Sopranos- After a string of anxiety attacks, a New Jersey mob boss seeks professional psychiatric counseling, a vessel for the dramatic issues in both his home and business lives.

Schitt's Creek - When rich video-store magnate Johnny Rose and his family suddenly find themselves broke, they are forced to leave their pampered lives to regroup in Schitt's Creek, a town they once bought as a joke.

Stranger Things - When a young boy disappears, his mother, the police chief, and his friends must confront terrifying supernatural forces in order to get him back.

2. Series Synopsis (150 words or less)

The short synopsis outlines the plot and the major turning points of the story. It addresses the WHO, WHAT and HOW of the story while clearly describing the beginning, middle and end.

One should also get a clear idea of who the protagonist(s) is, what journey he/she embarks on, and the resolution.

2. Episodic Synopsis (300 to 500 words for each episode)

The synopsis outlines the plot and the major turning points of each episode. It addresses the WHO, WHAT and HOW of the episode while clearly describing the beginning, middle and end. One should also get a clear idea of what the primary, secondary and tertiary tracks of the episode are.

3. Detailed Pilot/First Episode Synopsis (3 min to 5 Pages max)

Pilot/First Episode synopsis is usually longer and more detailed out for pitching and evaluation purposes when a pilot series/screenplay is missing. This detailed synopsis is ideally 3 (min) to 5(max) pages and gives a very detailed description of the pilot episode in an act wise structure and with a clear indication of the beginning, middle and end.

4. Series Description (min. 6 to max. 10 pages | 12 point, single spaced, 1” margin)

The series description is meant to elaborate on the **WHERE, WHEN** and **WHO** of the entire show. It should break down the emotional journey that the primary, secondary and tertiary characters take and what is at stake for them with a clear indication of the season’s plot through the course of an entire season. Although the series description will elaborate the plot which drives the story, giving a sense of the characters is equally important as it is the characters’ key choices and actions that drive the plot. It would be preferred if the participants break down the overall story into an Act Structure of their choosing. Also if it’s a multi-season series, then also briefly indicate what's the major plot development of the consecutive seasons.

The description should include the decisions and actions the characters take in pursuit of their goals, the hurdles they face and what they do to overcome the barriers, whether they win or lose and where we leave them in the end. Revealing the end is crucial in a synopsis and the story should not end in three dots. The description is the complete story, not just the premise that leaves readers curious about what happens next. The readers must be convinced that the end is a logical, dramatic outcome of all the events before. Remember that story synopsis should not be based on what you want the story to be about. Instead tell the story as clearly as possible.

5. PILOT EPISODE SCREENPLAY/SCRIPT (min. 25 pages or less than 60)

The screenplay should be in English. The dialogues should also be written in English (not Roman Hindi) in industry accepted format, irrespective of the language of the show. Kindly make sure that the submitted screenplay has scene numbers again each scene heading.

6. Writer's Statement (100-150 words)

A writer's statement is your personal connection with the script. The following points are only to get you started. Do tell us anything else that you think will help us know the genesis of the project better -

- What is your personal connection in wanting to tell this story?
- Where does the story come from?

7. Writer's Bio (max. 300 words)

A summary of your professional work that may include awards and recognition, educational qualifications and any other details that directly relate to screenwriting / filmmaking.

8. Past Work

Applicants for series/web-show who submitted only Episodic Synopsis for all episodes and didn't submit a Pilot/First Episode Screenplay at the time of application will be mandatorily required to submit Pilot/First Episode screenplay before the commencement of the 2nd session of the lab. It is also mandatory that the participant also submits previous work (screenplays) registered in their name.

For others please make sure that the links to the past work you submit informs us about you as a Screenwriter or Director.