

SCREENWRITERS' LAB

FilmBazaar Screenwriters' Lab | Children's Screenwriters' Lab



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 though the final film can be in any Indian language.

The submission requirements for the first stage of the Screenwriters' Lab 2016 application are:

1. **Logline** (< 30 words)

A Log line 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:

Titli - In the badlands of Delhi's dystopic underbelly, Titli, the youngest member of a violent car-jacking brotherhood, plots a desperate bid to escape the 'family' business.

Queen - A Delhi girl from a traditional family sets out on a solo honeymoon after her marriage gets cancelled.

Rang De Basanti - The story of six young Indians who assist an Englishwoman to film a documentary on the extremist freedom fighters from their past, and the events that lead them to relive the long forgotten saga of freedom.

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2. Tagline

A tagline is a short explanatory subtitle in addition to the film title. It is a short text, which serves to clarify a thought for, or is designed with a form of, dramatic effect. Taglines often appear on posters or the CD/DVD packaging of videos and music. Taglines can have an enticing effect and are therefore an important aspect in the marketing of films.

For example:

In space, no one can hear you scream. – *Alien*

Har family, family nahin hoti - *Titli*

The answer lies within - *Talaash*

The True Story of a Real Fake - *Catch Me If You Can*

A Soldier is Never Off Duty - *Holiday*

A War You Cannot Escape - *Chakravyuh*

3. Story Synopsis (3000 - 5000 words)

The story 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. The synopsis also describes the emotional journey of the protagonist(s) – the inner conflicts of characters and what is at stake for them with a clear indication of the story's plot.

The synopsis also gives a sense of the story's setting in time and space. Although the story synopsis 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.

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The synopsis includes 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 synopsis 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. The aim of a well-written synopsis, then, should be to excite the readers about the possibility of the story as a film.

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.

4. **Writer's Statement** (500 words)

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

- What is your personal connect in wanting to tell this story? Where does the story come from?
- Do you plan to direct the screenplay? If yes, how do you propose to take it towards production?
- If this is a resubmission of material we've considered previously, how has the material changed or transformed since we last read it? **

5. **If you are shortlisted for Application Stage II, you are required to provide:**

Script

The script should be in English with dialogues also in English (not Roman Hindi) in industry accepted format.

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Step Outline

The Step Outline is the story told in steps. Each step is a scene and each scene is described for what happens and what the scene is about – i.e its significance or point. You may include scene details, if you wish.

The step outline is the ideal way to check structure – i.e that scenes are in the right order – and to eliminate repetitions, red herrings, dead ends or otherwise pointless scenes.

It is an essential preparatory internal document. In the first session of the lab you would be working with this document mainly.

For example, the Step Outline of *Bajrangji Bhaijan* might look something like this:

Scene 1: In a small mountain village in Pakistan, a crowd of villagers watches an India-Pakistan cricket match on TV. Watching the match is a pregnant woman who tells her friend that if she gives birth to a boy, he will be called Shahid, after Shahid Afridi. Pakistan wins the match and the crowd erupts in joy.

Scene 2: SIX YEARS LATER. A little girl in a hijab travels on the Delhi-Lahore Express train with her mother. A fellow passenger asks the child her name but she remains silent. Slightly embarrassed, the child's mother replies that the girl's name is Shahida and she never talks.

Scene 3: Flashback: In the valley, while chasing a baby sheep, Shahida falls off a cliff. Her mother is worried sick as her daughter hasn't come home.

Scene 4: A search party hurtles through the forest at night. Shahida is found hanging on a branch by a cliff.

Scene 5: At the village/family gathering, Shahida's mother is advised to seek the blessings from a darga in Delhi. Desperate, Shahida's mother resolves to take her daughter across the border to India alone.