

# SCREENPLAY TECHNIQUES BY THEME

## **ACTION**

- 1 - Accident
- 2 - Action Scene
- 16 - Car Chase
- 26 - Chase Sequence
- 42 - Explosion
- 47 - Fight
- 119 - Simultaneous Actions

## **CAMERA/TECHNIQUE**

- 5 - Angles
- 15 - Camera Movement
- 27 - Close-Up
- 31 - Coverage
- 32 - Crash Zoom
- 56 - From CU to Wide
- 61 - Hand Held Camera
- 65 - Insert
- 70 - Lighting
- 72 - Long Take
- 96 - Plonge
- 120 - Slow Mo
- 130 - Technical Note
- 136 - Tracking Shot

## **CAR**

- 1 - Accident
- 16 - Car Chase
- 17 - Car Description
- 18 - Car Placement
- 19 - Car Scene Exterior
- 20 - Car From Exterior to Interior
- 66 - Inside Vehicle Description

## **CHARACTERS**

- 1 - Argument
- 21 - Character Description
- 22 - Character Double
- 23 - Character's Future Projection
- 24 - Character In Past
- 25 - Character Reveal
- 59 - Group Dynamic
- 75 - Main Character First Mention
- 81 - Multiple POVs
- 98 - POV
- 102 - Reflection
- 104 - Renaming Character
- 118 - Silent Realization

## **DESCRIPTION**

- 3 - Alien Description
- 4 - Anatomy
- 5 - Angles
- 17 - Car Description
- 21 - Character Description
- 31 - Costume
- 35 - Crossing Traffic
- 39 - Dream Description
- 40 - Environment
- 44 - Family Dinner
- 58 - Group Description
- 66 - Inside Vehicle Description
- 74 - Mail Description
- 84 - Newspaper Description
- 91 - Party Description
- 99 - Poster Description
- 100 - Prop Description
- 107 - Road Sign
- 108 - Room Description
- 111 - Scanning Poster
- 116 - Signs
- 135 - Theater
- 141 - Underwater
- 146 - View From Window

## **DIALOGS**

- 7 - Argument
- 29 - Group Talk
- 36 - Dialogs In Movement
- 44 - Family Dinner
- 51 - Foreign Language
- 63 - Improv
- 77 - Mid-Conversation
- 89 - Overlapping Conversation
- 94 - Phone Conversation
- 120 - Simultaneous Talk
- 128 - Subtitles
- 140 - TVTalks Back

## **FRAMING**

- 5 - Angles
- 11 - Background Action
- 12 - Background/Foreground
- 15 - Camera Movement
- 27 - Close Up
- 32 - Crash Zoom
- 96 - Plonge

## **META**

- 14 - Breaking the 4th Wall
- 48 - Filming
- 50 - Footage
- 112 - Screen to Screen
- 140 - TV Talks Back

## **NARRATIVE TECHNIQUE**

- 6 - Animation
- 8 - (Clue to) Audience Only
- 14 - Breaking the 4th Wall
- 25 - Character Reveal
- 34 - Cross Cut
- 37 - Director Note
- 41 - Examples/Alternatives
- 46 - Fast Forward
- 49 - Flash Back
- 52 - Freeze Picture
- 62 - Holding Info
- 67 - Intercut
- 68 - Jump Cut
- 69 - Later
- 78 - Montage
- 83 - Narrator
- 85 - Note
- 86 - Off Screen
- 90 - Parenthesis
- 95 - Plot Description
- 97 - Plot Point Description
- 98 - Point of View
- 103 - Reminder to Reader
- 118 - Silent Realization
- 127 - Split Screen
- 130 - Technical Note
- 142 - Visual Note

## **PLOT**

- 8 - (Clue to) Audience Only
- 62 - Holding Info
- 92 - Peaking Info
- 95 - Plot Description
- 97 - Plot Point Description
- 105 - Revelation
- 118 - Silent Realization
- 139 - Turning Point Visual

**PHYSICAL REACTIONS AND EMOTIONS**

43 - Eye Contact  
57 - Glimpse  
79 - Mood  
93 - Perception  
101 - Reaction Shot  
118 - Silent Realization

**REALITY AND DREAM**

43 - Eye Contact  
57 - Glimpse  
79 - Mood  
93 - Perception  
101 - Reaction Shot  
118 - Silent Realization

**SCREENPLAY FORMAT**

28 - Closing Line  
37 - Director Note  
41 - Examples/Alternatives  
85 - Narrator  
87 - Opening Credits  
88 - Opening Line  
131 - Time Cut  
132 - Timelapse  
133 - Time Passing  
134 - Title Card

**SEX**

113 - Sex/Love  
129 - Suggested Sex

**SILENCE**

80 - Moment of Silence  
117 - Silent Conversation  
118 - Silent Realization  
122 - Sound Off Screen

**SOUND**

9 - Audio Flash Back  
13 - Bleep  
54 - From Source Music to Soundtrack  
55 - From Source Sound to Thoughts  
76 - Musical Piece  
80 - MOS  
82 - Music/Sound  
122 - Sound Off Screen  
123 - Sound Over Black  
124 - Sound Overlap  
125 - Sound Effects  
126 - Sound Transition

**TIME**

34 - Cross Cut  
49 - Flash Back  
67 - Intercut  
68 - Jump Cut  
69 - Later  
131 - Time Cut  
132 - Timelapse  
133 - Time Passing

**TRANSITIONS**

71 - Location Transition  
109 - Room Transition  
137 - Transition  
138 - Transition Into TV

**TV**

50 - Footage  
138 - Transition Into TV  
140 - TV Talks Back  
148 - Zapping on TV

**VIZUALISATION AND REFLECTION**

43 - Eye Contact  
57 - Glimpse  
60 - Group Description  
64 - Holding Info  
73 - Looking Through  
92 - Peaking Info  
102 - Reflection  
142 - Visual Note  
143 - Visual Memory  
144 - Visual Reveal  
145 - Visual Signs

**WRITTEN INFO**

14 - Book Description  
84 - Newspaper Description  
99 - Poster Description  
116 - Signs  
107 - Road Sign  
111 - Scanning a Poster  
128 - Subtitles  
134 - Title Card  
147 - Written Info on Screen

*The internet list of screenplay techniques was crowd-sourced on metafilter; authors unknown.*