



SPOTLIGHT

TRAINING

STORYTELLING WRITING

By Jonathan Horst

PURPOSE

Before you start writing, identify and write down a sentence or two that identifies exactly what you're trying to say in your story.

Everything that follows should support this.

IT'S DIFFERENT FOR TV

- Be concise!
- Use conversational language
- Stay focused
- Include factual information
- Check for proper grammar
- Read out loud to hear how it sounds and revise

AND WATCH OUT FOR...

- Avoid Jargon, Clichés and Slang
- Excessive Statistics
- Careless use of personal Pronouns
- Backwards Attribution
- Avoid Gender or Race Specific Language
- Use of Abbreviations
- Avoid “Poison” words

DIFFERENT STYLES

SCREENPLAY

EXT. PARK - DAY

Theodore sits on a bench in a park on a rooftop wedged between tall buildings. There's not really any view besides the trees in the immediate foreground. People sunbathe and exercise. He sits, eating a sandwich, his device next to him. He looks at the device, then out at what she's looking at.

THEODORE

What are you doing?

SAMANTHA

I'm just sitting here, looking at the world and writing a new piece of music.

He looks at the world with her for a minute.

THEODORE

Can I hear it?

TWO COLUMN SCRIPT

Visuals	Audio
WS of setting MS of things happening CU of subject	(BG Sound: Sound Effect) (Music: Genre or Song title)
Sequence of character looking at something	VOICE OVER IS USUALLY WRITTEN IN ALL CAPS WHICH IS EASIER TO READ FOR THE NARRATOR IN THE BOOTH.
CHARACTER NAME	“Interview clips are in sentence case in quotation marks.” (BG Sound: “Hey look over there!”)

TV LIVE SHOW SCRIPT

Don't have a picture