

Video Production.

Mr. Stiles, Fall 2020

This is your 8th assignment. - Due Friday, 10/16, Value 60 Points

Write a 1-2 Page Summary of Your One Favorite Story Idea From Your Ideas.

Is your idea a story? - Making a Short Film, lesson 2.

- **So, your to do for this section, take a look at those three ideas that you've come up with, pick one that you're feeling the best about and think about how you're going to explore it as a story. Who is your character going to be? What is the thing that's going to disrupt their lives that they're going to need to overcome? What types of challenges might come along with that? And how are they going to change as a result? Write a really brief summary, no more than one to two pages. You don't have to figure the whole thing out. Just kind of map out your way of taking your initial idea and turning it into a story.**

Transcript of lesson 2 video:

- All right, so hopefully you have a few ideas that you're pretty excited about. And now what you have to ask yourself is, it's a cool idea, but is it a story? And I know that might seem a bit odd and that's because, especially in the beginning part of the screenwriting process. We all have a tendency to refer to story and idea interchangeably. But the truth is, there is actually a distinction between the two and it's important. A idea is sort of your starting point. It's generally going to be pretty general. Something like, a down on his luck super hero. Right? A story about a down on his luck super hero.
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- So, the question of course is, all right, so what happens to this down on his luck super hero? And the answer to that question, that's when it goes from being a idea to a story. So another way of saying is that, of that, is that stories are going to involve change. They're going to involve movement. Someone, some, something happens that makes someone realize that they need something. They try and get that thing. And then they either succeed or they don't. So another way of saying this is that story explores an idea through Narrative Arc, Character Arc, and conflict.
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- So, let's break down a little bit of what those are. Narrative Arc is, essentially another way of saying beginning, middle, and end. It's the what happens of it all. So that it's basic. It is, you know, what's the status quo in the beginning? What, what comes in that disrupts that status quo? What are the steps, the obstacles, the challenges that your character is going to have to deal with? And where do they end up in the end?
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- Your Character Arc has to do with the change that is occurring to your character by virtue of going along this journey. So, a way to understand that is, your character is one way at the start of your story, something, like we said happens, that sort of disrupts that. They find themselves needing to take action. Whether its to get the girl or to defeat the bad guy. And through the course of trying to to take that action. Through the course of trying to

get the thing that it is that they need. Or overcome the thing that they're trying to overcome. They either change or don't as a result.

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- Conflict is the third part of the equation. And conflict is basically, sort of, the steps along the way that are going to trip up your character. And keep the audience engaged, hopefully. So, you know, you're, if you're doing a sort of straight ahead action film, or a series, you know, it's going to maybe be the car chases or the individual flight, fights. Or the really tense scene where the heroes about to be discovered while, you know, trying to get a clue. Or something like that. It doesn't always have to be that kind of actiony stuff. Conflict can be between two people. If you're doing a survival story, it can be, you know, the, the elements or even someone's surroundings. But all three of these things are really, closely related. Because the idea is, is that, the change that you want to see happening in your character the, the, the journey that you want them to go through. That change happens because of the obstacles and the conflict that you put in front of them. And sort of the same thing with the Narrative Arc. The, the journey that they're going on. Or, or that, that sort of journey that you want to explore, is going to kind of define what those characters need to do along the way. And how they're going to be changed by it.
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- So to put this on a little bit of a perspective, let me give you an example from one of my projects. My web series The Further Adventures of Cupid and Eros, the idea that started that whole thing was actually pretty simple. It was just I wanted to do a modern take on Roman and Greek mythology. And I thought it'd be cool if Cupid was the main character but was not particularly lucky in love. So, in that case, I already knew who the character was but it was still a pretty general idea. And it could have gone in a lot of different directions. It could have been about him quitting his job as a Love God because he had just had it. It could have been about him going on a ton of blind dates. It could of actually been this story of, him getting dumped. Ultimately, what I decided I wanted to do was a story about a Cupid who was unhappy and his work was kind of suffering because he was unlucky in love. And he and his friend thought that the thing that would make it better would be for him to be able to pick up a girl.
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- So the story was going to be about Cupid and his friend, Eros, going to a bar for Cupid to try and pick up a girl. So from that, I had a Narrative Arc of Cupid trying to get a date and pick up a girl at this bar. I had a Character Arc of Cupid going from depressed and discontent in the beginning to, I decided eventually, he was going to be happy. And a suggestion for the types of conflicts that would happen to him along the way, because I knew that, okay there could be frustration between him and his friend, Eros. That he would have to have some internal conflict about just getting up the courage to even, you know, put himself out there and deal with potential rejection. And of course, sort of, you know, the more surface things of not making a fool of himself in front of people. So, you can see that's a more specific, that is the story version of this initial idea was, which was just modern take on Cupid. And his love life stinks.
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- So to wrap this all up, a way to sort of say this, simply, is your idea is the spark. And story is your idea explored through Narrative Arc, Character Arc, and conflict in a specific way. That's what makes it your story as opposed to any of the other interpretations that someone could have from the same idea. **So, your to do for this**

section, take a look at those three ideas that you've come up with, pick one that you're feeling the best about and think about how you're going to explore it as a story. Who is your character going to be? What is the thing that's going to disrupt their lives that they're going to need to overcome? What types of challenges might come along with that? And how are they going to change as a result? Write a really brief summary, no more than two pages. You don't have to figure the whole thing out. Just kind of map out your way of taking your initial idea and turning it into a story.