

Video Production.

Mr. Stiles, Fall 2020

This is your 5th assignment. - Due Monday, 10/5, Value 30 Points

3 WRITTEN STORY IDEAS, JUST A FEW SENTENCES ON EACH.

Where to look for ideas - Making a Short Film, lesson 1 Transcript.

Alright, first things first, script. In order to write a script you need an idea. So here's the thing. No one can tell you how to have a good idea. But there are tips and tricks for sort of where to look for inspiration and how to get inspired that can help sort of get the juices flowing and get you on the right track. Now the thing is, is that human beings the way we're wired, we kind of see stories in everything. It's just sort of how we interpret the world. That's why, even your evening news when they're reporting on the water main break, you know, at fifth and market there's going to be sort of this sense of it being about this guy was just trying to get to work and the water main stopped him. We look for stories everywhere. That's how we interpret the world. And what that means is that potential stories are everywhere. And the inspiration for them is everywhere and you just have to be open to it.

So how do you do that? Well one of the oldest bits of advice about any sort of writing, whatsoever, is write what you know. Now that doesn't mean you've got to write your autobiography from every detail from the moment you were born to the moment you actually sat down to write the autobiography. What does mean is you can think about your life and the experiences you've had and see if there's something there that you think would be interesting. Maybe you moved around a lot as a kid and as a result had a lot of experiences that were kind of unique to that. Or maybe you have a family member who is just such a character that you've always sort of thought, "Man they would totally "be great up on screen."

Or maybe it's your career. The other thing you do when you're not trying to write a screen play. Guys like John Grisham went to law school, practiced law for a little bit, started writing thriller novels set in the legal world, best sellers, next thing you know they're making movies of them. That's an example of he took what he knew from his career and then used that to inspire these other types of stories. Now the flip side of writing what you know is writing what you don't know. And what we mean by that is this is a really great excuse to find out about something you're interested in but don't know that much about. And especially in the age of Wikipedia and Google, it is never been easier to think of something that you're curious about and just start doing some research and seeing where that takes you.

You know of course we mentioned news stories a few moments ago, and news stories, and magazine articles, and blog posts are always good for inspiration as well. You don't necessarily want to be thinking about adapting a story as written 'cause adaptation is a whole other thing but reading that blog posting about small town politics in Wisconsin might spark something in you that says, "Ah you know, small town politics, "that's interesting and I'm kind of into that "and I think I've got this idea for a mayor election "in some little town."

Another way to go that I'm really partial to is finding images, images without context that you can use to free associate. So what I mean by that is you can sort of stroll through Flickr or do a random image search on Google or even a lot of antique stores have boxes full of Polaroids that some how found their way there. And what your looking for is just an image that catches your eye. Maybe it's the expression on someone's face or an object in the frame that doesn't quite belong. And what you do is you just look at the image and you start in your mind to try and figure out, "Okay what was the story behind this. "How did this particular picture come to be taken." And that can be a really great way to sort of get the creative energy flowing and start thinking about things.

And then the last one I'll mention is look at Genre and a twist on genre. If you are a huge Syfy fan, or fantasy, or romantic comedy, think about what you love in those genres and for that

matter think about what you wish there was more of. Or if you love two genres in particular think about how maybe you could sort of smash them together. Again that can be a really great way to just sort of get the creative energy flowing and the ideas just sort of start to percolate.

So your To Do for this section is pretty simple. Using any of the crumbs that I just mentioned or none or all or something that you come up with on your own, try and come up with three ideas that you're excited about. Don't worry about taking them too far just two or three sentences that sort of illustrate the idea and then we'll take that idea further in the next couple of sections.