

Turn your Happy/Sad Scenarios into a Screenplay

On a quick glance at your conversation ideas, you have a lot of really great ones - thank you!

Next step: **Write a 3-5 page screenplay for each one. Yes, that equals two screenplays. One is due on Friday (11/3) and the other is due Monday (11/6).**

You are starting now in class (be sure you are working – either on ideas or start typing in Celtx). Please consider what we have recently discussed about genre and mise en scène – your stories are not just about the narrative, you need to give your world context, be it happy or sad. And [read screenplays](#) – it will help!

Notes:

Many of them are **brief snippets of life with background stories helping to elicit emotion** (sibling rivalry, relationships with a grandfather/aunt or boyfriend/girlfriend, lost/adopted pet, school pressure, etc.).

For these, because your screenplay isn't very long and you **cannot just state what people are thinking nor just write their backstory** (remember, only what can be seen or heard on screen), think about what we discussed about mise en scène yesterday – especially regarding setting . What can you include that will help show a relationship? the end of a sports career? school pressure? a long-term illness?

Other ideas of yours are a **little more contained** – but think about what setting can do for the scene and describe it. Additionally, think carefully about where to start your scene – does it need to be linear, could a flash-back work? And could a well-done montage work (for a bank robbery? for a first date? etc.)? Could it just be one conversation, in one location?

Remember – for the **action lines** where you write about the setting, use your words to include things that will add meaning (example: if you say there are four recliners in the living room, but they have no meaning and give no context and you don't refer again to them, don't include).

You worked on writing **dialog** by recording a conversation last week – try to apply that to this screenplay. We do not really speak how you have learned to write – think how that can help get your ideas and emotions across.

You are still learning how to write a screenplay, look at my notes on your dialog screenplay, be sure to look at [screenplays from your favorite movies](#), and above all, be creative and thoughtful – visualize and try your best to get your ideas on paper.