THE
BOYS
IN THE
BOAT

Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics

Daniel James Brown

Multimedia Storytelling as Assessment / Filmmaking in the ELA Classroom

Breakout Agenda:

1. Pre-Production (read excerpt, brainstorm adaptation, write scripts with youmescript.com)

2. Production (film, animate)

3. Post-Production (edit with Flixier)

4. SHARE OUT!

THE PROCESS

Pre-Production

- Brainstorming
- Planning
- Scripting
- Storyboarding

Production

- Filming
- Recording Voice over
- Adding special effects

Post-Production

- Uploading/file management
- Editing
- Adding effects

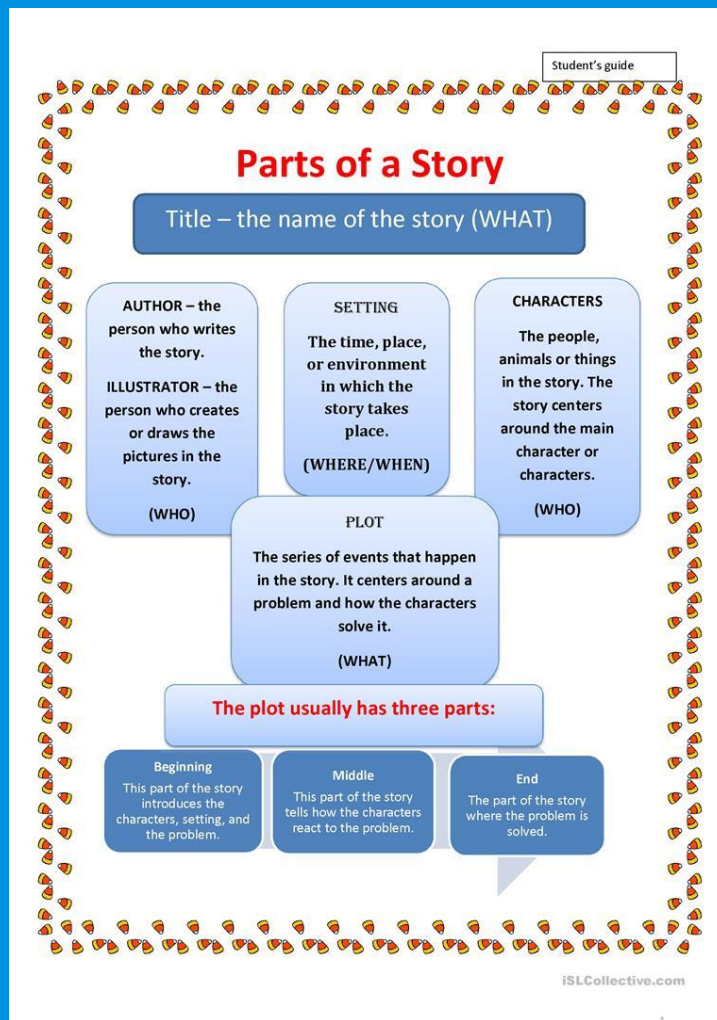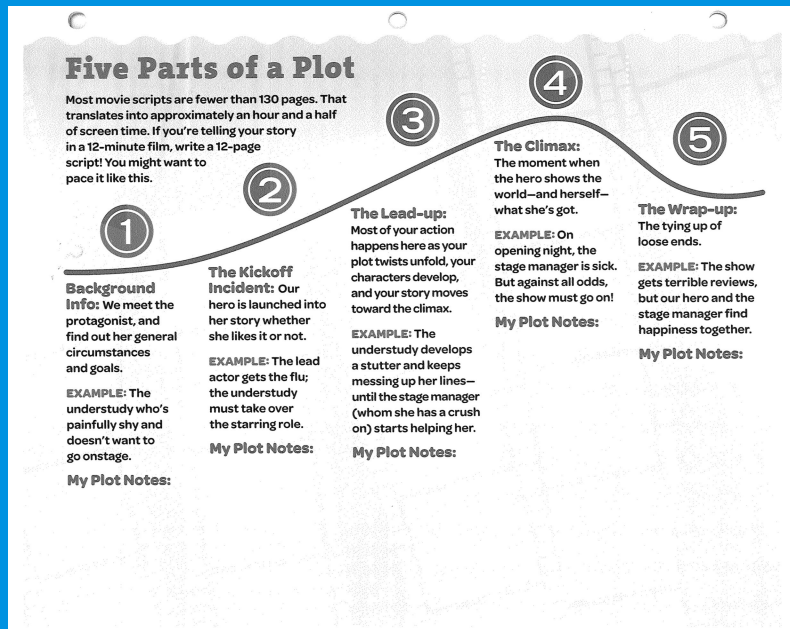**This is where we are now!**

Scriptwriting

Screenplay / Script Breakdown

A screenplay, or script, is a written work by screenwriters for a film, television show, or video game.

Story Developing

Five Parts of a Plot

Most movie scripts are fewer than 130 pages. That translates into approximately an hour and a half of screen time. If you're telling your story in a 12-minute film, write a 12-page script! You might want to pace it like this.

① Background Info: We meet the protagonist, and find out her general circumstances and goals.

EXAMPLE: The understudy who's painfully shy and doesn't want to go onstage.

My Plot Notes:

② The Kickoff Incident: Our hero is launched into her story whether she likes it or not.

EXAMPLE: The lead actor gets the flu; the understudy must take over the starring role.

My Plot Notes:

③ The Lead-up: Most of your action happens here as your plot twists unfold, your characters develop, and your story moves toward the climax.

EXAMPLE: The understudy develops a stutter and keeps messing up her lines—until the stage manager (whom she has a crush on) starts helping her.

My Plot Notes:

④ The Climax: The moment when the hero shows the world—and herself—what she's got.

EXAMPLE: On opening night, the stage manager is sick. But against all odds, the show must go on!

My Plot Notes:

⑤ The Wrap-up: The tying up of loose ends.

EXAMPLE: The show gets terrible reviews, but our hero and the stage manager find happiness together.

My Plot Notes:

Student's guide

Parts of a Story

Title – the name of the story (WHAT)

AUTHOR – the person who writes the story.

ILLUSTRATOR – the person who creates or draws the pictures in the story.

(WHO)

SETTING

The time, place, or environment in which the story takes place.

(WHERE/WHEN)

CHARACTERS

The people, animals or things in the story. The story centers around the main character or characters.

(WHO)

PLOT

The series of events that happen in the story. It centers around a problem and how the characters solve it.

(WHAT)

The plot usually has three parts:

Beginning
This part of the story introduces the characters, setting, and the problem.

Middle
This part of the story tells how the characters react to the problem.

End
The part of the story where the problem is solved.

iSLCollective.com

Script to Screen

- **Toy Story**

- **The Dark Knight: Script to Screen**

What makes a good movie script??

❖ Proper Format

❖ Fresh Concept

❖ Gripping

❖ Visual

❖ Strong Characters (Main)

❖ Escalated Conflict

❖ Snappy Dialogue

❖ Fat Free

❖ Realistic

❖ X Factor

1. Properly formatted

- ❖ Producers hire **professional readers** to save their time. Imagine how many scripts they receive and have to go through!
  - ➢
    - ■ → Scripts that are not formatted according to guild standards **don't even stand a chance of getting past a reader**.
    - ■
- ❖ That's why a font of 12 Courier and all that goes along is a must. **Proper scriptwriting software** makes a writer's life a lot easier and helps concentrate on the creative part.

2. Fresh concept

❖ It doesn't have to be a high concept script, meaning it tells a story never ever told before. But it has to be a fresh take on the existing concept if you want to c**atch a reader's attention**.

❖ A great plot can be **pitched in a few sentences** and leave the audience **craving for more**.

3. Gripping

After all, it's all about the story.

- A good screenplay catches your attention from the very beginning and doesn't let go till the very end.
- It always has a **hook** - something that keeps you guessing why this or that happened and what is going to happen next. It is well paced, **constantly surprising**, with sudden plot turns along with a **satisfying and unpredictable ending.**

4. <u>Visual</u>

- "Show not tell" - they say this to students in all the film schools for a reason. Yet most rookie films tend to plunge into unnecessary ranting.
- This, of course, can't be said about movies based on a solid script.
- Remember - **one good piece of action can replace a thousand words.** And action doesn't necessarily mean the kind of stuff you encounter in any Michael Bay movie.

5. Strong Main Character

- It's key to have a person who **drives the story forward**, someone all can root for. All great scripts have them - guys that are **easy to relate to**, likeable (but not necessarily luscious), with their weaknesses and, most importantly, a **goal**.
- A well-written character has a so-called arc - the **development** we can perceive in him while he's **overcoming his flaws**.
- Raising the stakes of him losing gives the story even more power.

6. Escalating conflict

- The path to the goal for a hero can never be too easy - otherwise all his efforts will be in vain and leave the audience unimpressed.
- There must be **obstacles** that prevent the main character from doing what he needs to do - up to the point of rendering it completely unrealistic.

7. Snappy Dialogue

- When a script is visual and action-packed, the **dialogue is freed from the burden of explaining the events**.
- Here's where the characters step up and burst with cracking lines that **keep the audience entertained**.
- An experienced writer always puts opposing personalities in a confined space, makes them interact and sees what happens.

8. Fat free

- An exemplary script is **brief and concise**. It stays within 90 to 120 pages and doesn't try to test the audience's patience.
- It's a rule of thumb to convey the idea of what the character is after by the 20-th page and bring the story to resolution no later than page 110.
- It's usually a result of not being too attached to every word and following the golden principle: **writing is rewriting**.
- **Cutting out the unnecessary is essential** - and it's amazing how much fat can actually be trimmed!

9. Realistic

- Writers who delve too carelessly into their imagination sometimes forget about such a prosy thing as a potential film's budget.
- It's generally a good idea to stay pragmatic and write scripts with **achievable production values**. And that's usually what all the successful filmmakers did before reaching their well-earned glory.

10. X factor

- This one as the hardest of all to grasp, because without it even the purest scripts that stay true to the rules above can badly fail.
- It's almost impossible to explain, but you'll see it in every acclaimed movie - something magical, that **makes it special**. Be it talent, or luck, or years of hard work - this last one is for you to find out.

Good luck!

THE STORY SPINE

THE STORY SPINE	STRUCTURE	FUNCTION
Once upon a time... Every day...	Beginning	The world of the story is introduced and the main character's routine is established.
But, one day...	The Event	The main character breaks the routine.
Because of that... Because of that... Because of that...	Middle	There are dire consequences for having broken the routine. It is unclear if the main character will come out alright in the end.
Until finally...	The Climax	The main character embarks upon success or failure
And, ever since then...	End	The main character succeeds or fails, and a new routine is established.

Your Turn!

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS _____.

EVERY DAY _____.

UNTIL ONE DAY _____.

BECAUSE OF THAT _____.

BECAUSE OF THAT _____.

UNTIL FINALLY _____.

Free to use Script Writing Software

https://youmescript.com/

Shots and Angles

Big Read 2023

Establishing Shot

An establishing shot in filmmaking and television production sets up, or establishes the context for a scene by showing the relationship between its important figures and objects.

Extreme Wide Shot

In film, a view of a scene that is **shot** from a considerable distance, so that people appear as indistinct shapes. An **extreme long shot** is a view from an even greater distance, in which people appear as small dots in the landscape if at all (eg. a **shot** of New York's skyline).

Wide Shot

In photography, filmmaking and video production, a long shot typically shows the entire object or human figure and is usually intended to place it in some relation to its surroundings.

Medium Shot

A medium shot, mid shot, or waist shot is a camera angle shot from a medium distance.

Close Up

A close-up or closeup in filmmaking, television production, still photography and the comic strip medium is a type of shot, which tightly frames a person or an object

Extreme Close Up

Extreme Close-Up: This close-up fills the frame with the subject's face (or part of their face!). This shot creates intimacy with your subjects in a very specific way.

Two Shot

A **two shot** is a type of shot in which the frame encompasses a view of two people (the subjects). The subjects do not have to be next to each other, and there are many common two-shots which have one subject in the foreground and the other subject in the background. It is very useful if the film is about two people.

Over the Shoulder Shot

An over the shoulder shot is a shot of someone or something taken from the perspective or camera angle from the shoulder of another person.

Dutch Angle

The **Dutch angle**, also known as **Dutch tilt**, **canted angle**, **oblique angle** or **German angle**, is a type of camera shot where the camera is set at an angle on its roll axis so that the shot is composed with vertical lines at an angle to the side of the frame, or so that the horizon line of the shot is not parallel with the bottom of the camera frame. This produces a viewpoint akin to tilting one's head to the side

Point of View Shot

A point of view shot is a short film scene that shows what a character is looking at. It is usually established by being positioned between a shot of a character looking at something, and a shot showing the character's reaction.

Cutaway Shot

In film and video, a cutaway shot is the interruption of a continuously filmed action by inserting a view of something else. It is usually, although not always, followed by a cut back to the first shot, when the cutaway avoids a jump cut.

Low Angle Shot

In cinematography, a low-angle shot, is a shot from a camera angle positioned low on the vertical axis, anywhere below the eye line, looking up. Sometimes, it is even directly below the subject's feet.

High Angle Shot

A high-angle shot is a cinematic technique where the camera looks down on the subject from a high angle and the point of focus often gets "swallowed up."

Camera Shot Types

THE PROCESS

Pre-Production

- Brainstorming
- Planning
- Scripting
- Storyboarding

Production

- Filming
- Recording Voice over
- Adding special effects

Post-Production

- Uploading/file management
- Editing
- Adding effects

This is where we are now!

FADE IN:

INT. TROLLEY BARN - DAY

DICTATOR stands authoritatively over a small crowd gathered around two people arm wrestling on a table. He gazes, smiling and satisfied, upon the competitors, rocking back and forth as the crowd chants "GO! GO! GO! GO!

One of the arm-wrestlers, ALEX, suddenly overcomes their opponent, slamming their arm down on the table. The crowd deflates, disappointed.

DICTATOR stops smiling, turns around, and walks away. |

THE PROCESS

Pre-Production

- Brainstorming
- Planning
- Scripting
- Storyboarding

Production

- Filming
- Recording Voice over
- Adding special effects

Post-Production

- Uploading/file management
- Editing
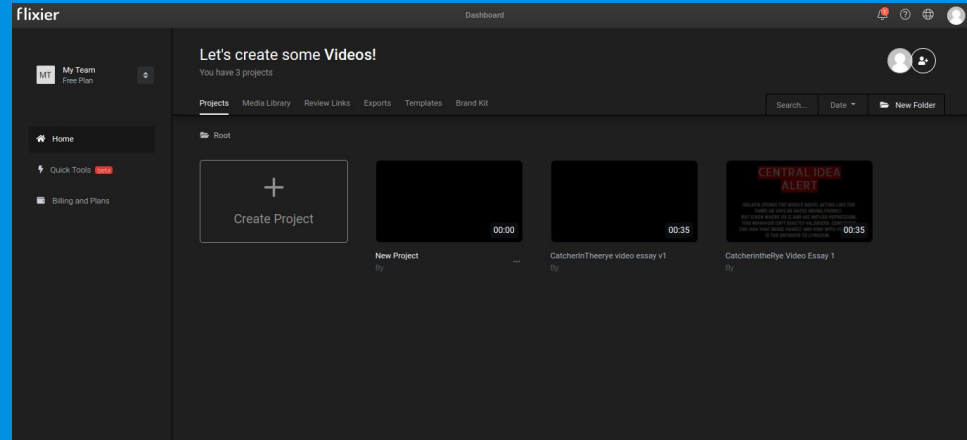- Adding effects

This is where we are now!

To start a video, click the plus sign under "Create Project" That will take you to a window that looks like this:
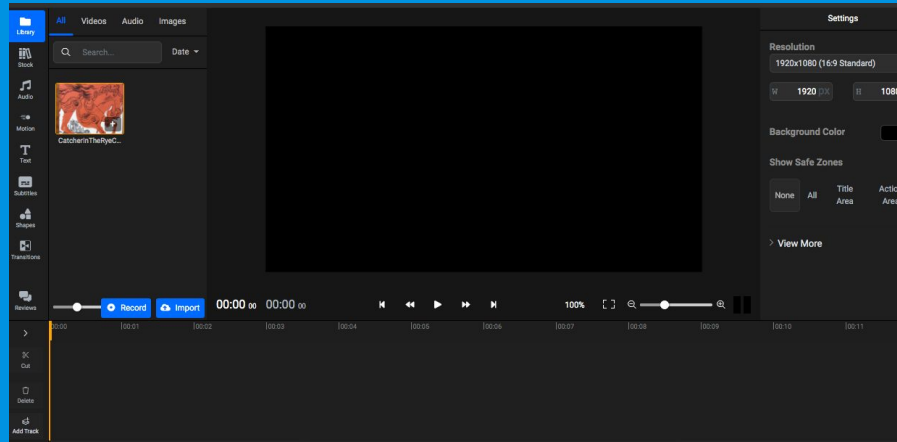
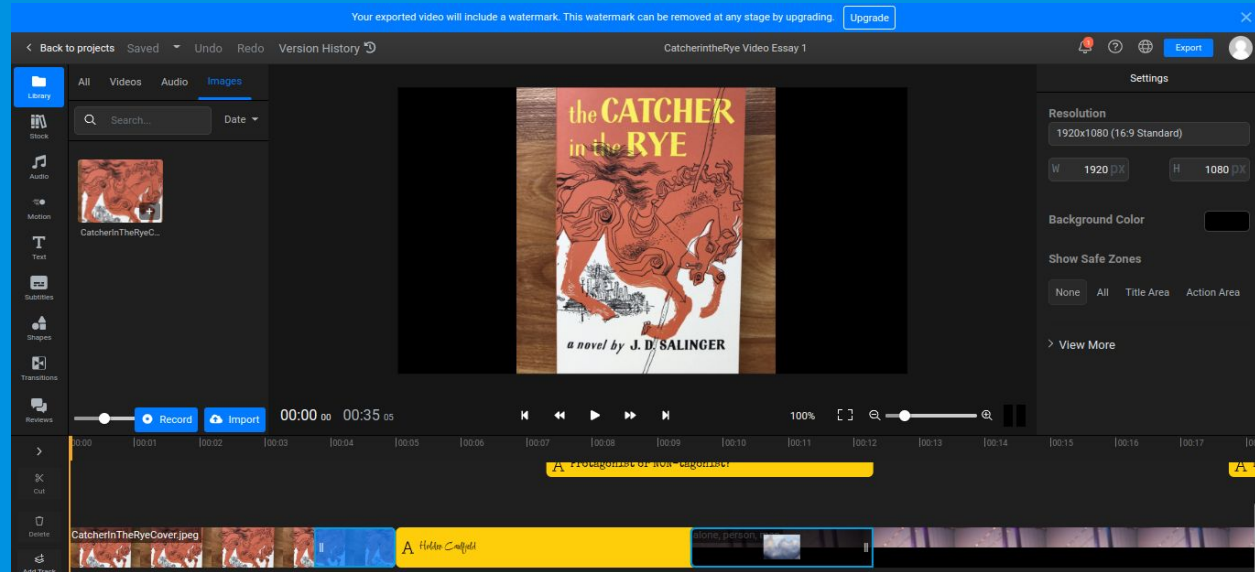Go to Flixier.com and create a free account using your email.
Your project dashboard will look like this:

From there, you can begin adding footage, photos, text, and more.
Each horizontal line is a "track" where you can see how one element lays out against the others.
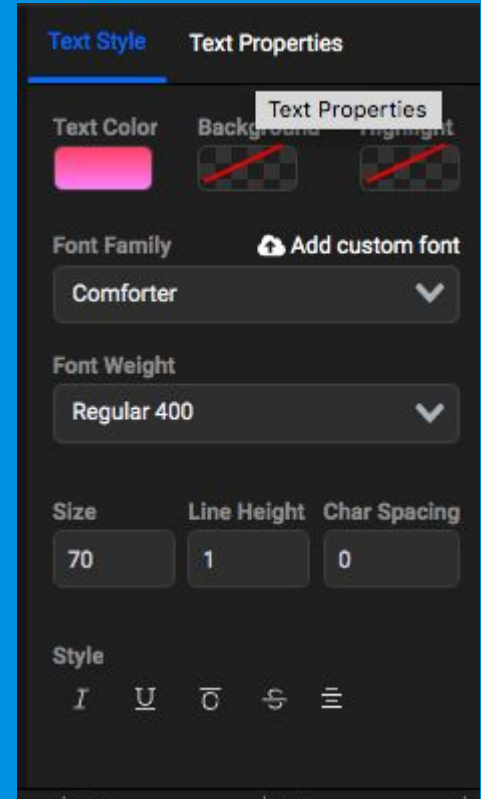
Any filmed footage must be uploaded to Google Drive and imported from there

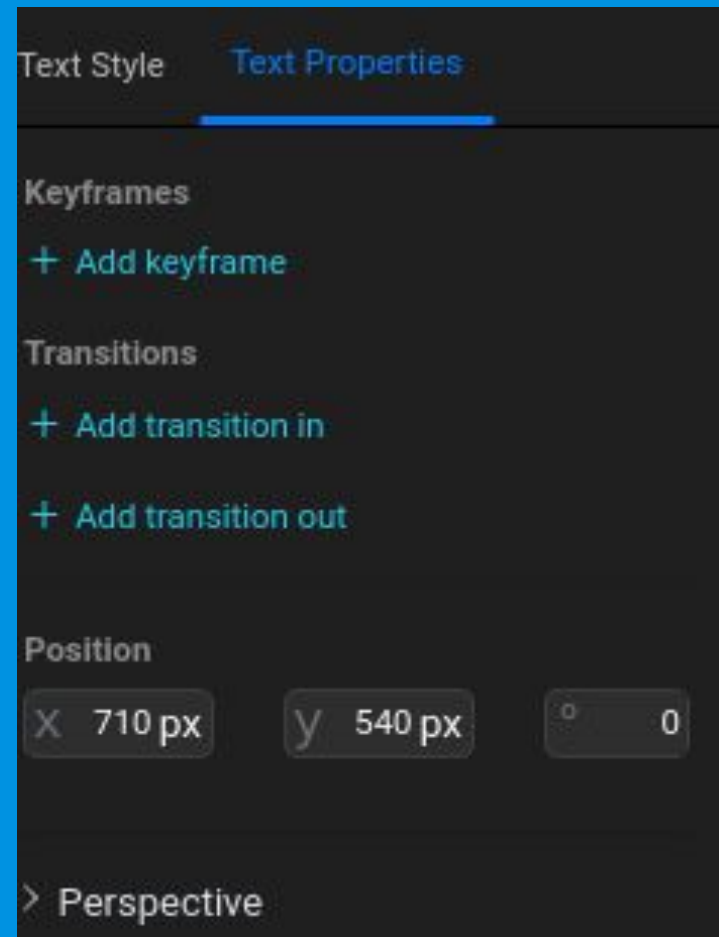Under Text Style, you can change font, size, color, and more!

Under Text Properties, you can animate and fade in/out.

flixier

To fade in and out on any clip, click on "properties" to the right, then click on "add transition"

flixier

Text Style **Text Properties**

Keyframes

+ Add keyframe

Transitions

+ Add transition in

+ Add transition out

Position

X 710 px   y 540 px   ° 0

> Perspective

When you're finished, you can export and download!