

CADETTE BADGES TO DO AT HOME



When it thrills, makes you laugh, or has a fantastic twist, a movie or TV show can seem like magic. And a great show starts with a great script! Screenwriters write scripts meant to be filmed. In this badge, put all your viewing experience to good use—let it inspire you as you try your hand at writing for the big (or small) screen.

Steps

1. Decide what makes a good script good
2. Come up with an idea for a story
3. Get to know your characters
4. Build the plot
5. Write a 12-page script—and share it!

Purpose

When I've earned this badge, I'll know how to create a screenplay for a show or movie.

Screenwriter

To earn this badge, please complete one option per step.

STEPS	BADGE REQUIREMENTS	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
Step 1	Decide what makes a good script good.	Watch one movie or 3 shows in the same genre and take notes. Focus on the characters' words, the scenery changes and the situations the character is put through by the screenwriter. Refer to them while working on your own script.	Watch one movie or 3 shows in the same genre, then discuss and write down what you like or don't like about the script.	Read several of your favorite scripts from TV shows or movies to help develop your writing skills for the big screen.
Step 2	Come up with an idea for a story.	Look into your own life and determine if it can make a good script.	Add to a story you already know. Think of your favorite fairy tale, now give us a different ending! Share with your family.	Play story maker. Use 24 pieces of index cards or pieces of paper divided into two groups. One group is for characters and the other for situations/ settings. Write an idea on each and then grab two from the character group and one from the situation group. Do they spark an idea for a story?

Step 3	Get to know your characters.	Do some people watching while sitting on your front porch. Take notes of what they are wearing, how they act, etc. Choose three or four details from your observations	Exaggerate details about people you already know, like your sister or brother, or even mom or dad. What is it about him or her that stands out. If mom likes to wear a blue dress on Tuesday, have the character wear a different color on the next Tuesday.	Mix or match by taking three aspects of people or characters and combine them to round out your characters. Visit this website: https://storybird.com/
Step 4	Build the plot.	Fill out a worksheet that brings out your imagination. Challenge yourself to find all the plot twists in the corners of your creative mind	Find your plot twists in the news. How are the protagonists and antagonists acting and reacting in newspapers or magazines?	Use plot twists from familiar stories. You could even pull twists from a combination of stories. Visit this website: https://www.eadeverell.com/imagination-ebook/
Step 5	Write a 12-page script — and share it!	Work solo. Some writers prefer to work their magic alone! If that's you, share your script when you're finished, perhaps by reading it aloud to your family at home. You could ask family members to read the different parts.	Work with a friend virtually. Two minds can take creativity to a whole new level — and it's fun to try out dialogue as you go along. If your friend is another Cadette earning her Screenwriter badge, try to write a 24-page script together!	Work with a mentor. Perhaps a playwright, director, or actor; an English or drama teacher; or a film or drama student at a local college would be willing to help? Ask your mentor to give you feedback on your pages.