

**Lights, Camera, Literacy!**  
**High School Edition**  
**Glossary of Terms**

**Act I:** The beginning of the story and typically involves introducing the main characters, as well as the setting, and the main initiating conflict (also known as the inciting incident).

**Act II:** The longest of the three acts and the most difficult part of writing a screenplay. Involves a series of escalating challenges as the main character tries to achieve their goal.

**Act III:** This is the end of the story. The conflict is resolved; the character arc is complete and the audience sees what the future now holds for the characters.

**Action:** A script element describing what we will see on the screen. Also, the direction given by a director indicating that filming begins.

**Actor:** Person who takes on a fictitious role in a play or film.

**Altruism:** The unselfish concern for the welfare of others.

**Analyze:** To study something in order to separate it into the pieces that make it up, and to figure out its essential features and elements.

**Brainstorming:** A creativity technique where a group creates a list of ideas spontaneously.

**Categorize:** To group objects (or ideas) into categories, usually for some specific purpose.

**Character Development:** The process of creating a believable character in fiction by giving them depth and personality.

**Chroma-Key:** a technique by which particular color (often blue or green) in a video image can be replaced by another image. For example, a weather forecaster appearing against a background of a computer-generated weather map.

**Cinematic:** Elements unique to a movie (camera angles, frame composition, lighting, music, "time jumping" via montage, visual flashback).

**Cinematographer:** The person who operates the camera.

**Close-up:** Tight frame on a person or an object.

**Collaboration:** Working together toward a common goal.

**Compromise:** An agreement in a dispute that is reached by each side making concessions. Involves people reducing their demands or changing their opinions in order to agree.

**Constructive Feedback:** Feedback containing helpful and specific suggestions for positive improvement or change.

**Continuity Editing:** A style of editing that attempts to make it easier for the audience to comprehend and understand the action happening on screen.

**Creative Commons:** An organization devoted to expanding the range of creative works available for others to build upon legally and to share. The organization has released several copyright-licenses known as Creative Commons licenses free of charge to the public.

**Creativity:** The use of the imagination or original ideas, especially in the production of an artistic work.

**Critique:** To review or examine something critically.

**Cut:** In the process of video editing, a cut is a film transition from one sequence to another. It is synonymous with the term edit.

**Cutaway:** Scenes that cut away from the action. Crowds, cheering fans, cheerleaders, and side-line action are all examples of cutaway shots. Ideally, cutaways should smooth out the continuity of the film.

**Cut-In:** A close-up shot of something visible in the main scene. An example of a cut-in is a close-up of one player's foot as he kicks the ball.

**Dialogue:** Words spoken by characters.

**Director:** Person who is in charge of transforming the message and feeling of the story into film. The director is in charge of running the actual production, with considerably more say-so over the final product.

**Dissolve:** The fading out of one shot into another shot.

**Dramatic:** Elements in a play or a movie (acting, sets, costumes).

**Editing:** The process of selecting, assembling, trimming, and arranging footage into a coherent film sequence.

**Editor:** The person who cuts and arranges shots into a coherent sequence.

**Establishing Shot:** A shot that establishes the location. Usually a long shot at the beginning of a scene or sequence providing the viewer with the context of the subsequent closer shots.

**Export:** To convert a file into another format than the one it is currently in.

**Film Festival:** A festival of short and/or feature-length films. The two best-known festivals in the world are Sundance and Cannes.

**Film Rating:** The Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) film rating system used in the United States to rate a film's suitability for certain audiences based on its content.

**Flashback:** A scene from the past that interrupts the action to explain motivation or reaction of a character to the immediate scene.

**Footage:** The raw, unedited video clips as originally filmed, which typically must be edited to create a completed film.

**Foreshadow:** An indirect hint or indication of a future event.

**Full Shot:** A shot that shows the subject from head to toe.

**Free Write:** A writing technique in which a person writes continuously for a set period of time without regard to spelling, grammar, or subject matter. It can be a useful technique for generating new ideas.

**Green Screen:** A green background behind the subject being filmed, allowing for a different background to be added later using the editing tool known as Chroma key.

**Import:** The process of importing video, photos, or audio clips into your computer.

**Jump Cut:** A transition between two shots which appears to "jump" due to the way the shots are framed in relation to each other.

**LCL! 3x3 Story Path:** Story structure that helps scriptwriters in crafting original screenplays following the three-act structure.

**Literary:** Elements in a book, play, or movie (story, dialogue, character traits, motivation, character arc).

**Literary Conflict:** This defines the types of problems that occur in the analysis of stories, such as character vs self, character vs. character, character vs. nature, and character vs. society.

**Literary Devices:** Narrative techniques that help to add deeper meaning to the story and convey important information about the characters, theme or plot. Some examples of literary devices are: symbolism, metaphors, imagery and foreshadowing.

**Magical Realism:** A narrative strategy that integrates elements of fantasy into otherwise realistic settings.

**Match-Cut:** A transition in which something in the new scene in some way directly matches a character or object from the previous scene.

**Medium Shot:** A camera shot from the waist up.

**Metaphor:** A comparison between two things that aren't alike but do have something in common.

**.mov:** A compressed video file format compatible with both Macintosh and Windows platforms.

**Movie Poster:** Used to promote and advertise a film. Normally contains an image and text.

**.mp4:** A commonly used compressed video file format compatible with most computers.

**Non-Linear:** Stories that jump around in time as the order of events are not in the order in which they occur.

**On-Location:** The shooting of a film or television production in a real-world actual setting rather than a sound stage.

**Outlier:** A person or character who is excluded, or excludes themselves, from some group or organization; an outsider.

**Peer Review:** To formulate and communicate effective and constructive feedback in an effort to improve the overall work.

**Pre-Production:** The planning stage in a film's production involving story and script development, storyboarding, casting, scheduling and selection of locations.

**Production:** The production crew is on set and shooting the footage.

**Post-Production:** The final stage in a film's production; involves editing, the addition of sound/visual effects, and musical scoring.

**PSA (Public Service Announcement):** A message to the public with the objective of raising awareness or changing public attitudes towards a social issue.

**Rough Cut:** The first stage in which the film begins to resemble its final product in the timeline.

**Score:** Music composed specifically for the movie to enhance the story.

**Shot List:** A list of all camera shots needed for a production.

**Script:** The written text of a film used as the foundation for the production.

**Silence:** The lack of audible sound.

**Slug Line:** Occurs at the start of every scene in a script and typically contains three pieces of information: 1. The specific location of the scene; 2. Whether this is set inside or outside (INT/EXT.); 3. The general time of day.

**Sound Bridge:** Seamlessly connects two scenes together by overlapping the sound from one scene to another.

**Sound Effects:** Imitative sounds that are produced for theatrical purposes in films, plays or radio programs.

**Sound Stage:** A soundproof, hangar-like structure, building, or room, used for the creation of film and television productions.

**Special Effects:** Any sound, other than music or speech, artificially reproduced to create an effect in a dramatic presentation, as the sound of a storm or a creaking door.

**Storyboard:** A graphic organizer that uses a sequence of images to pre-visualize what a film will look like.

**Story Structure:** The backbone of effective narrative storytelling. The typical story structure adheres to the three act structure. Built properly, scenes should effortlessly link to one another to create a chain of events that makes sense and tells an engaging story.

**Symbolism:** The use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities.

**Tagline:** A catchy, enticing short phrase used by film studios to advertise a movie.

**Theme:** A central idea in a piece of writing or other work of art.

**Three Act Structure:** The three-act structure is a model used in narrative fiction that divides a story into three parts (Act I, Act II, and Act III), often called the Setup, the Confrontation and the Resolution.

**Three Stages of Production:** The three stages of production are: **Pre-production:** Planning, scripting & storyboarding. **Production:** The actual shooting/recording. **Post-production:** Everything after production that creates the final completed film.

**Three Aspects of Film:** The three aspects of film are: cinematic, dramatic and literary.

**Title Slide:** Text that appears onscreen to highlight a key element of the movie, a change of location or date, or person involved in the making of the movie.

**Transition:** Transitions can be an instant scene change, a fade, fade to black, dissolve, pan from one person to another, or any digital effect between scenes or sequences.

**Two Column Script:** The left-hand column of a two-column script includes all the visual aspects and the right-hand column contains the audio portions of the production, including dialogue, sound effects and music. The content of the columns should be synchronized, so that the dialogue in the right column matches all the visual in the left column.

**Voiceover:** Dialogue, usually narration, that comes from an unseen, off-screen voice, character, or narrator.

**Word Association:** The spontaneous production of words in response to a given word or a prompt. Can help generate unexpected new ideas during the creative process.