

SCRIPT AUTHENTICITY GUIDE

“Make stuff up, but keep it real”

TONY GILROY

Crafting a compelling narrative that resonates with authenticity is a pivotal aspect of screenwriting. Let's streamline that process using a structured approach to defining your world, developing characters, and plotting your story, all while maintaining a consistent and believable narrative.

Define Your World: Start by outlining the rules of your world. Here's a checklist to consider:

Physical Laws (Gravity, Time, Space):

Societal Structures (Government, Class System):

Cultural Norms (Religion, Traditions):

Magic or Technology Rules:

Create Believable Characters: Your characters should feel real, with their own strengths, weaknesses, desires, and fears.

Here are some aspects to consider:

Character's Name: _____

Background/History: _____

Strengths: _____

Weaknesses: _____

Desires: _____

Fears: _____

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Use Realistic Conflict and Resolution: Conflict is a vital part of any story, but it needs to be believable. Outline your main conflict and its resolution:

Main Conflict: _____

Resolution: _____



Establish Realistic Dialogue: Dialogue should reflect the way people genuinely speak. Consider the character's background, education, and personality.

Jot down phrases or words that you want to use:

Character-Specific Phrases/Words:

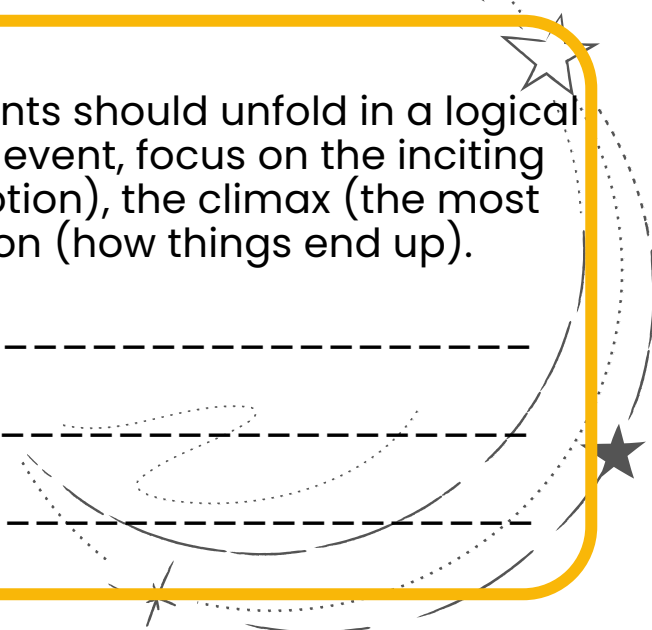
Common Phrases/Words in Your World:

Ensure Logical Plot Progression: Events should unfold in a logical manner. Instead of outlining every event, focus on the inciting incident (what sets the story in motion), the climax (the most intense point), and the resolution (how things end up).

Inciting Incident: _____

Climax: _____

Resolution: _____



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As an example, let's fill in the worksheet to develop an adaptation of 'Sunset Song' by Lewis Grassie Gibbon

Define Your World: Start by outlining the rules of your world. Here's a checklist to consider:

Physical Laws (Gravity, Time, Space):

Same as real world, as the story is set in early 20th century Scotland.

Societal Structures (Government, Class System):

Monarchy with a parliamentary system, rural farming community.

Cultural Norms (Religion, Traditions):

Presbyterian, with a strong connection to the land and traditional Scottish customs.

Magic or Technology Rules:

No magic, technology consistent with the early 20th century rural Scotland.

Create Believable Characters: Your characters should feel real, with their own strengths, weaknesses, desires, and fears.

Here are some aspects to consider:

Character's Name: Chris Guthrie

Background/History: Daughter of a farmer in rural Scotland.

Strengths: Intelligent, resilient, independent.

Weaknesses: Societal expectations of her as a woman in a rural community.

Desires: To balance her love for her rural home with her desire for personal freedom.

Fears: Being trapped in a life she doesn't want, losing her connection to the land.

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Use Realistic Conflict and Resolution: Conflict is a vital part of any story, but it needs to be believable.

Outline your main conflict and its resolution:

Chris struggles to reconcile her love for her rural home and

Main Conflict: her desire for personal freedom and education.

Chris chooses to stay on her family farm, finding a balance

Resolution: between her love for the land and her personal independence.

Establish Realistic Dialogue: Dialogue should reflect the way people genuinely speak. Consider the character's background, education, and personality.

Jot down phrases or words that you want to use:

Character-Specific Phrases/Words:

Chris might use Scottish dialect or rural farming terminology

Common Phrases/Words in Your World:

Early 20th century Scots dialect & rural jargon, such as "ken", "bairn", or "croft".

Ensure Logical Plot Progression: Events should unfold in a logical manner. Instead of outlining every event, focus on the inciting incident (what sets the story in motion), the climax (the most intense point), and the resolution (how things end up).

Chris's mother dies, leaving her to take care of the

Inciting Incident: family and the farm.

Chris chooses to stay on her family farm, despite her dreams of

Climax: education and personal freedom.

Chris finds a balance between her love for the land and her

Resolution: personal independence, choosing her own path in life.

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