

FILM OUTLINE

Intro Over the years, I've found it useful to outline the entire film minute-by-minute before writing a single page of the screenplay.

This template is designed to be pinned up in a grid on a wall (as an example, 10 columns by 3 rows for a 90 minute outline) creating a bird's eye view of the story and act structure that throughout the outlining process can be used to (more easily) spot issues with pacing, information flow, etc.

The urge to jump in and begin writing the actual screenplay can be strong - and although there is a blurry line between preparation and procrastination - I often force myself to work within the confines of outlining for 2-3 passes, until I can see every beat of the film in my mind. This process can last several weeks to several months.

The outlining process is the foundation for your film; rushing through it can often lead to an unnecessarily slow and difficult screenwriting process.

Notes When outlining a film, I use at least two different colors of 3x3" sticky notes, this way I can alternate colors between scenes and at-a-glance get a visual sense of pacing, as well as quickly move scenes/ideas around as needed.

As a general rule, if I feel I can't describe a minute of screen time in 2-3 sticky notes (1-3 per row, 6-9x per page) then I likely have a pacing issue.

This template included 2 hours of screen-time, print as many pages as necessary.

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Min 2

Min 3

Min 4



Min 5



Min 6



Min 7

Min 8

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Min 11



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