

Preproduction

Pre-production is considered the most important part of the filmmaking process

Some of the stages

- Lining the script
- Shooting script
- Shot list
- Schedule
- Budget

How long should pre-production be?

- a month on pre-production for a short film should be ok.
- but this of course depends on the type of short film.

Breaking Down a script

- Make sure the script is properly formatted
- The first AD will line the script
 - 1. Break the script down into separate scenes
 - How is a scene identified?
 - the scene header
 - location of the scene
 - interior or exterior
 - Time of day
 - day
 - night
 - morning
 - evening

1st Assistant Director - Pre-production process

- Once the script is “locked”, add scene numbers to SCENE HEADINGS, giving each scene its own permanent number.

1st Assistant Director - Pre-production process

- Perform a script breakdown, showing everything that is needed to shoot each individual scene.

This includes

- actors, locations, props, set dressing, make-up, etc.

Scriptwriting tools

- **Celtx**
- <https://screenplayreaders.com/celtx/>
- **Final Draft**

Breakdown Sheet

BREAKDOWN SHEET # _____

Page Count: _____

Date: _____

Production Company: _____

Production Title: _____

Scene #: _____ Scene Name: _____ INT/EXT: _____ DAY/NIGHT: _____

Description: _____

CAST	STUNTS	EXTRAS/ATMOSPHERE
	EXTRAS/SILENT	
SPECIAL EFFECTS	PROPS	VEHICLES/ANIMALS
WARDROBE	MAKEUP/HAIR	SOUND EFFECTS/MUSIC
SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	PRODUCTION NOTES	

What is a Shooting Script?

- a shooting script will tell you what type of shots will be filmed and for what lines of the script.

Be organised

- Breakdown the elements of the script to a colour
- Final draft tagger
- Break down the scene into 1/8th's
- The colours
- Characters - Cast Members
- set dressing - eg. bar western saloon

What is a Shot List?

- Usually created by the Director and the Cinematographer

get enough coverage of a scene - (This gives the editor choice)

Establishing shot/Master shot

medium shots

close ups

for conversations

Master shot

reverse shot

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5UE3jz_O_EM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1Ey0a6LJRA>

What does a Shot List Look Like?

SHOT LIST					
Production Title: Memento			Director: Christopher Nolan		Cinematographer: Wally Pfister
SHOT #	LOCATION	SHOT TYPE	CAMERA ANGLE	CAMERA MOVEMENT	SHOT DESCRIPTION (subject, action, lighting, etc.)
#1	Ext.	EST-MS	LA	Tilt	Photo Changing hands; Dark, Tilt to move up/down
#2	Ext.	MCU	LA	Steadicam	Lower Body, Dark, Replacing something in pocket
#3	Ext.	CU	EL	Steadicam	Face Shown, Half of face it.
#4	Ext.	XCU	TH	Rack Focus	Blood on floor, flowing in reverse
#5	Ext.	XCU	HA	Rack Focus	Bullet on floor
#6	Ext.	XCU	LA	Rack Focus	Glasses on floor, Dimly lit
#7	Ext.	MS	POV-Leonard	Rack Focus	Man on floor, Blood Surrounding him
#8	Ext.	MLS	LA	Tilt	Leonard Retrieving gun backwards, Kneeling down
#9	Ext.	XCU	HA	Rack Focus	Bullet Flowing Backwards, Dark shadows from under
#10	Ext.	XCU	LA	Rack Focus	Glasses falling in reverse, Dark shadows to the left
#11	Ext.	MS	POV-Leonard	Dolly	Man's body falling in reverse, Mixed Light, Shadows
#12	Ext.	XCU	TH	Dolly-in	Close up of Bullet being ejected from gun in reverse, gun in shadow
#13	Ext.	MCU	LA	Dolly-Out	Leonard shooting gun, half shaded, light through window
#14	Ext.	CU	OTS-2S	Rack Focus	Leonard face in shadow, light straining on floor

Storyboards

- Storyboards are used as a guide and are NOT set in stone for most film projects.