

Script #1 Grading Rubric

Name: XXXXXXXXXX

Formatting	6/9 pts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proper Formatting of Screenplay Elements Scene headers are incorrect and inconsistent 	3/4.5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spelling and Grammar 	3/4.5
Screenplay Style	8.75/9 pts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the action lines clearly related to character and plot? 	3/3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are descriptions clear without being excessive? 	2.75/3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the camera directions clear without being explicitly stated? 	3/3
Character	4/6 pts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully-developed characters that engage the reader's sympathy, especially with the protagonist 	1/3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All characters have clear desires, and the protagonist's desire drives the story events 	1.5/1.5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dialogue suits the individual character rather than being generic 	1.5/1.5
Story/Plot	4.75/6 pts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear beginning, middle, and end with each event following dramatic logic (one leads to the next) 	3/3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there sufficient obstacles between the characters and their goals? Are there stakes? 	1/1.5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there conflict in each scene? Is there an attempt at a rising action (achieving desires becomes more difficult for characters as the story progresses)? 	.75/1.5
Total Points	23.5/30 pts
Percentage of Final Grade	5.48/7%

Hey [REDACTED]: Great efforts on your first script. It was very clever and had a lot of great comedic moments to it, which can be hard when dealing with a sensitive topic like this. So let's talk about how to make it stronger. Two big areas to consider for your rewrite are going to be character and conflict.

Character: Angie's desire is clear: prevent Ellie from killing herself. But something that is lacking is more consistency with who she is as a person. For instance, in the "13 Reasons Why" beat, she's incredibly harsh with the supposedly suicidal Ellie, saying suicide is selfish and stupid. All of her actions prior to that have been to uplift Ellie so that she won't want to commit suicide, but her saying these things would have the exact opposite effect. Their exchange begins to sound on-the-nose as they talk about how everyone has pain and the people in the community need to help more, and we don't want on-the-nose. That coupled with Angie's harshness really takes away from the tone of your script. It's no longer funny in this beat. To recapture her character's consistency, it seems like Angie would fumble around with her words more and try to be more sensitive but does it all wrong and puts her foot in her mouth, like with the lovely weather actually being storming. Something else that would lend to the tone would be an audience awareness that Ellie is an actor and Angie's ignorance of this fact. That way you're balancing sensitivity to the issue of suicide and the very comedic character that Angie is most of the time.

Conflict: There are quite a few moments where the story's set up opportunities for conflict and tension and then nothing comes of it. Don't let Angie off the hook so easily. For instance, when Angie hits her head on the bed and makes noise and then when she reveals she knows that Ellie is a great Pikachu artist, Ellie drops the subject in a second. Why not milk that for more tension? Ellie can push the issue and start approaching the bed until Angie can play the music and so on.