

Script #1 Grading Rubric

Name: XXXXXXXXXX

Formatting	8.75/9 pts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proper Formatting of Screenplay Elements Remember your scene headers need a time (DAY/NIGHT/LATER) unless it's continuous action 	4.25/4.5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spelling and Grammar 	4.5/4.5
Screenplay Style	9/9 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? 	3/3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the camera directions clear without being explicitly stated? 	3/3
Character	3.75/6 pts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Fully-developed</u> characters that engage the reader's sympathy, especially with the protagonist 	1.5/3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All characters have clear desires, and the protagonist's desire drives the story events 	.75/1.5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dialogue suits the individual character rather than being generic 	1.5/1.5
Story/Plot	3.5/6 pts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear beginning, middle, and end with each event following dramatic logic (one leads to the next) 	2.5/3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there sufficient obstacles between the characters and their goals? Are there stakes? 	.5/1.5
<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)? What's the climax? 	.5/1.5
Total Points	25/30 pts
Percentage of Final Grade	5.83/7%

Hey [REDACTED] Great efforts on your first script. It's a fun idea and reminds me of the Stutter short the class watched. The guy's fears and insecurities are what's holding him back. The story itself has a lot of potential for even more comedy than it has all ready, so let's first look at how to make this story stronger.

Character & Stakes: The job is important, but he's got a wallet full of cash so I'm not feeling the strains as much (look at Wasp short film example). He's a young guy, so what's the worst that could happen if he loses his job? Think of the Omnibus example; the man was risking his job and his family. What does the job mean to him? Money for food (is he starving? Not likely since he's working in a nice office where I assume he has nice clothes and a briefcase). Money for his student loan payments? Money for rent? What? What will help with this is knowing what's motivating his phobia? Is it being trapped in the elevator or is it plummeting to the ground? If you can get your audience to understand what his fears are from the start—not just showing him taking the stairs—you'll get us to care more about his plight. The stakes will feel higher because his fear will feel higher, much more tension. Long story short, we need to know who this guy is.

Obstacles: It felt too easy from start to finish. His "obstacle" was mostly just learning that doing the climb to the 18th floor would be ridiculous. Then, it's finding Lou, but he finds him easily enough. Then it's the elevator but he gets in without a lot of issues, especially considering he's aware of his descent. Not much is really stopping him. Clarify his want. What is his want? It's hard to do a want as a negative, as in "he DOES NOT WANT to ride the elevator" because then it's simply avoidance. Instead, reframe it to something positive. If the inciting incident is that he's told that they're being relocated to the 18th floor, then the desire that incites could be to find a way to stay on the 8th floor. That gives you more to work with and more obstacles you can create. Once you clarify that want, you can create more obstacles for him. Consider also how being in the elevator negates his phobia. What if he didn't realize he was in the elevator?