

Achievable Screenwriting Goals 2025

THE
SCRIPT
READER

This checklist is all about setting small, manageable goals to kickstart your scriptwriting career or to maintain momentum. No pressure to check off each one; use it as a mini-guide to tailor your journey towards the ultimate goal of getting your ideas from script onto screen.

BUILD YOUR PORTFOLIO

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | COMPLETE A FEATURE FILM SCRIPT | <input type="checkbox"/> | WRITE A WEB SERIES SCRIPT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | FINISH A SHORT FILM SCRIPT | <input type="checkbox"/> | COLLABORATE ON A CO-WRITTEN SCRIPT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | EXPLORE A NEW GENRE IN A SHORT SCRIPT | <input type="checkbox"/> | WRITE AN ORIGINAL TV PILOT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | WRITE A SPEC SCRIPT FOR AN EXISTING SHOW | <input type="checkbox"/> | ADAPT AN OLD SCRIPT INTO A DIFFERENT MEDIUM (E.G., PODCAST, SHORT FILM) |

IMPROVE THE CRAFT

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | READ 3 SCREENWRITING BOOKS FOR INSPIRATION AND EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> | ENROLL IN AN ONLINE COURSE TO IMPROVE A SPECIFIC WRITING SKILL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | GET SCRIPT FEEDBACK FROM A PROFESSIONAL | <input type="checkbox"/> | REVISE AND POLISH A PREVIOUSLY COMPLETED SCREENPLAY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | EXPLORE ARTICLES OR BLOGS ON CURRENT INDUSTRY TOPICS | <input type="checkbox"/> | ATTEND A SCREENWRITING WORKSHOP OR SEMINAR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | EXPLORE MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES WITH AN EXPERIENCED WRITER | <input type="checkbox"/> | PARTICIPATE IN A WRITING RETREAT |

CONTESTS & SUBMISSIONS

- CREATE A PERSONALIZED CALENDAR OF CONTEST SUBMISSION DATES
- RESEARCH A LIST OF PEOPLE AND PLACES TO QUERY
- ENTER 3 REPUTABLE SCREENWRITING CONTESTS
- SUBMIT TO A SCREENPLAY COMPETITION THAT PROVIDES FEEDBACK
- QUERY 2 STUDIOS OR PRODUCTION COMPANIES
- SUBMIT QUERIES TO 5 AGENTS OR MANAGERS

PITCHING OPPORTUNITIES

- WRITE A LOGLINE FOR EACH COMPLETED SCREENPLAY
- COMPOSE A COMPELLING 1-PAGE PITCH FOR EACH PROJECT
- PREPARE A TREATMENT/PITCH DECK/BIBLE/SCRIPT SAMPLE READY TO USE
- PRACTICE YOUR PITCH IN FRONT OF A MIRROR OR WITH A FELLOW WRITER
- RECORD AND REVIEW YOUR PITCH TO IDENTIFY AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT
- CONNECT WITH EMERGING FILMMAKERS LOOKING FOR SCRIPTS TO PRODUCE
- PARTICIPATE IN A PITCH EVENT OR NETWORKING MEETUP
- PARTICIPATE IN A VIRTUAL PITCH SESSION

NETWORKING

- JOIN A VIRTUAL WRITERS' ROOM
- ATTEND AT LEAST 3 INDUSTRY EVENTS OR CONFERENCES
- ATTEND A LIVE SCRIPT READING OR TABLE READ
- SCHEDULE MEETINGS OR VIRTUAL CALLS WITH TWO INDUSTRY CONTACTS
- VOLUNTEER AT FILM FESTIVALS
- JOIN A SCREENWRITING GROUP/COMMUNITY/FORUM
- ENGAGE WITH INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS ON SOCIAL MEDIA
- FIND AND CONNECT WITH A LOCAL FILMMAKER OR SCREENWRITER
- VOLUNTEER ON THE SET OF AN INDIE OR SHORT FILM PRODUCTION

SCRIPT ANALYSIS

- PROVIDE CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACK TO AT LEAST 2 FELLOW WRITERS
- ANALYZE THE OPENING SCENES OF YOUR FAVORITE MOVIES
- WRITE A SCRIPT ANALYSIS FOR A MOVIE YOU LOVE
- STUDY THE DIALOGUE IN A CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED SCRIPT
- CREATE A BEAT SHEET FOR A WELL-KNOWN FILM
- BREAK DOWN THE CHARACTER ARC IN A SUCCESSFUL FILM
- STUDY THE WORK OF A FAVORITE SCREENWRITER FOR INSPIRATION

MARKETING YOURSELF

- CONNECT WITH FELLOW ASPIRING SCREENWRITERS ON SOCIAL MEDIA
- DEVELOP A PERSONAL BRAND AS A SCREENWRITER ON SOCIAL MEDIA
- CREATE A WEBSITE OR LANDING PAGE TO PROMOTE YOURSELF
- WRITE A SCREENWRITING RESUME WITH RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- UPDATE YOUR LINKEDIN PROFILE WITH CURRENT PROJECTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS
- DESIGN BUSINESS CARDS TO DISTRIBUTE AT NETWORKING EVENTS
- DESIGN BUSINESS CARDS TO DISTRIBUTE AT NETWORKING EVENTS

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

- CREATE A DEDICATED WRITING SPACE
- SCHEDULE BREAKS TO PREVENT BURNOUT
- ESTABLISH A CONSISTENT DAILY OR WEEKLY WRITING ROUTINE
- JOURNAL TO SELF-REFLECT, BOOST CREATIVITY, AND SET GOALS
- SET GOALS FOR WORDS/SCENES WRITTEN PER DAY/WEEK
- JOIN A WRITING ACCOUNTABILITY GROUP FOR SUPPORT
- CREATE A VISION BOARD FOR YOUR SCREENWRITING ASPIRATIONS

KNOW THE INDUSTRY

- READ 5 SCREENPLAYS IN YOUR CHOSEN GENRE
- WATCH AT LEAST 1 MOVIE PER WEEK FROM A VARIETY OF GENRES
- SUBSCRIBE TO A SCREENWRITING MAGAZINE OR NEWSLETTER
- EXPLORE ARTICLES OR BLOGS ON CURRENT INDUSTRY TOPICS
- ANALYZE THE SUCCESS OF A RECENT MOVIE OR TV SERIES
- EXPLORE INTERNATIONAL CINEMA FOR DIVERSE STORYTELLING PERSPECTIVES

BUDGETING

- TRACK AND MANAGE SCREENWRITING EXPENSES
- SET ASIDE A PORTION OF INCOME FOR SCRIPT COVERAGE OR EDITING SERVICES
- EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCRIPT-RELATED GRANTS OR FELLOWSHIPS
- APPLY TO AT LEAST 2 FILM FUNDS, GRANTS, OR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
- INVESTIGATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PAID WRITING GIGS
- SET A REALISTIC INCOME GOAL FOR THE YEAR

BRAINSTORMING NEW IDEAS

- WRITE DOWN 20 NEW IDEAS EACH WEEK
- EXPERIMENT BY WRITING IN A NEW GENRE OR STYLE
- MAINTAIN A JOURNAL FOR RANDOM SCRIPT IDEAS AND INSPIRATION
- USE WRITING PROMPTS FOR INSPIRATION
- EXPERIMENT WITH WRITING IN A DIFFERENT LOCATION

CELEBRATE ACHIEVEMENTS

- CELEBRATE COMPLETING A FULL SCRIPT DRAFT
- CELEBRATE MEETING A PERSONAL WRITING GOAL
- SHARE ACHIEVEMENTS WITH YOUR WRITING COMMUNITY
- ACKNOWLEDGE POSITIVE FEEDBACK OR REVIEWS
- REWARD YOURSELF AFTER ACHIEVING A MAJOR MILESTONE