FICTION PROJECT:
TREATMENT AND NARRATIVE SCRIPT
(FIRST DRAFT)

PURPOSE: The student will learn the basics of three-act structure; writing a treatment for the screen; and writing a narrative single column script.

PROCESS: This assignment requires TWO documents:

- A LOG LINE that is a concise, 1-3 sentence description of the Story presented from the general perspective of the Protagonist (e.g., "This is a story about X, a person of certain qualities in a particular time and place, who wanted something/was faced with a problem and encountered obstacles but succeeded/failed because of their qualities/flaws."

  and a

  A TREATMENT, a prose description of all the scenes in the story that is based on and adds audio/visual details to the Step Outline assignment (WA#6).

  THIS IS DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF WORKSHOPS.

  o They must be more than one page must be 12 point type, double-spaced using the COURIER or COURIER NEW

  o They must tell a fictional story from beginning through middle and end. (To help achieve this, you may break the Treatment into Acts 1, 2, & 3, if this is helpful.)

  o They must have a clear protagonist and an "arc,"

  o They must follow general rules and guidelines of writing a treatment: (See handout/lecture notes but in general require you to SHOW, NOT TELL events from a 3rd Person POV in the present tense using strongly visual language that focuses on what characters do rather that what they think about. Multiple resources are on the MES 153 Scriptwriting Page)

- A 4 (minimum)-to-14 (maximum) page SCREENPLAY/TELEPLAY (single column), DUE ON THE CHOSEN WORKSHOP DAY, that:

- is directly based on treatment above, must tell a fictional story from beginning through middle and end. Must have a clear protagonist, goal, conflict/obstacle(s), and an "arc"

- correctly uses screenplay/teleplay format (via a word processing program template or commercial/shareware screenwriting program such as Celtx, Final Draft ($), Highland2($), Amazon Storywriter (free with Amazon account), Trelby.org (free), DramaQueen (free), etc.

Students will schedule their time slots for IN-CLASS workshop/critique and will send a pdf to gstevenson@bmcc.cuny.edu on or before the morning of their workshop day, which will be posted on Blackboard.

PAYOFF: The student will master the fundamentals of 3-act structure, treatments, and single column script. Students will also gain insight into their writing by hearing their work read aloud and receiving feedback from the class.