

## **Abstract**

**Title** – The Story of a Well-Written Screenplay

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**Abstract:** This research paper presents an examination of the different approaches to screenplays for film, as espoused by some of the most renowned books and articles on the subject, and seeks to define the most basic necessary elements of a well-written, compelling screenplay, as seen in critically and commercially successful films. The paper goes into the primary goal of a screenplay, being the presentation of a compelling story, and then moves into what elements go into such a story. As according to multiple authorities on the subject, the two most important aspects of story are plot and character, both of which must work together in perfect harmony to create an emotionally resonate story. These two elements are then further broken down in the paper into their respective elements. Using examples of successful films, the paper recommends that plot is made up of a multiple-act structure, with key incidents and turning points incorporated at key locations, while characters (which can take many forms, including hero, opponent, ally, fake-ally opponent, fake-opponent ally, and subplot character) must possess a want, a need, and a reason for the audience to relate to them. With this information gleaned from some of the leading authorities on the subject of screenwriting, the paper proclaims that a well-written script is easier to accomplish than many believe.