



TREATMENT GUIDELINES

A treatment is your **story idea**, written down in one document, in a way that is easy to follow. It is also a way to build up some excitement for your project in its early stages, both for yourself and others.

While treatments can vary in length, we are asking you to limit your treatment to **one page**.

There are no definitive rules when it comes to writing a treatment, and many ways to write one, however here are some guidelines on what to include as you structure your treatment for BWDW:

1: TITLE

This may seem obvious to include, however this is a crucial step. Try not to overthink the title, but make sure the title is suggestive of the story and themes of your project. A good title can also lead deeper into the subject matter, for example: [When They See Us](#) by Ava Duvernay.

2: LOGLINE

This is a summary of your **story idea** in **one or two sentences**. This can be quite daunting to write but it helps to distil your story into its basic elements. The idea is to build up intrigue for your story so that people will want to see more. Don't give away any endings or spoilers. You can find more guidelines on loglines [here](#):

The logline can include

- A protagonist
- A goal
- An antagonist (this can be abstract – i.e. a failing career choice, see below)

Example: “Radha is a down-on-her-luck NY playwright, who is desperate for a breakthrough before 40. Reinventing herself as rapper RadhaMUSPrime, she vacillates between the worlds of Hip Hop and theater in order to find her true voice.” – *The 40 Year Old Version*.

3: PLOT SUMMARY

This the crux of the treatment, and should be written in **present tense prose**, or **story** form, eg. “A young girl named Goldilocks wakes up one morning craving porridge...” Write down your story's beginning, middle and end and introduce your characters. Think of it as expanding on what you have already written in your logline. You may write one plot summary per episode, or a plot summary of the three episodes as a whole. Write what the audience will see and hear on screen, but **do not** write technical film terms – i.e. camera movements, angles or sound design. You are just focusing on the story here.

Some more useful links:

<https://www.scriptadvice.co.uk/writing-a-treatment-for-a-tv-series/>

<https://www.masterclass.com/articles/how-to-write-a-film-treatment-in-6-steps#how-to-write-a-treatment-in-6-steps>

