

**Selling
Your
Screenplay
.com**

with
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Online Class #4: How To Write A Killer First Act For Your Screenplay

Welcome!

How To Write A Killer First Act
For Your Screenplay

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Opening Pages Checklist:

1. Your opening pages should establish the tone and genre of the film.
 2. Your opening pages should Introduce your protagonist.
 3. Your opening pages should set up the main dramatic situation that your film is going to be about.
 4. Your opening pages should Indicate the theme or message of your movie.
- AND (really, these last 4 apply to the entire screenplay)
5. Your opening pages must make the reader feel like you know what you're doing.
 6. Your opening pages must never bore the reader.
 7. MOST IMPORTANT: Your opening pages must make the reader feel something. Sadness. Fear. Horror. Pain. Laughter. Joy. Shock.
 8. Bonus point: A competent writer can juggle a dozen balls at the same time.

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First Act Checklist:

1. Set up the protagonist's normal world, but not with mundane scenes that don't pertain to the rest of the story!
2. Have a clear inciting incident.
3. Push your protagonist against the call to action to develop character. Debate section.
4. Understand the meat of your story so you have a clear act break.