



Launch Your Career!

Script Writing

To expand your understanding of the industry and help you research your professional options, this guide contains a list of professional organizations for networking and industry insights, websites that list employment and internship opportunities, vetted festivals and competitions, and useful career-related articles.

**Interested in writing for video games? Be sure to also check out our guide to Game Design!*

Job and Internship Websites

Don't forget that searching for a job, internship, or other career opportunity is more than just looking on these websites! Your personal and professional network of family, friends, co-workers, classmates, and collaborators may also be resources for career leads, especially when many opportunities actually aren't posted online. For tips and more information on how to use your network, please refer to our guide "Creating Relationships and Networking in the Arts."

Film/TV/Digital

BBC Writers Open Call: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/writers/opportunities/open-call>

Annual open call for scriptwriters. Applicants may be non-British-born writers, but they must be current residents in the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man or Republic of Ireland. Overseas submissions are NOT eligible.

The Black List: www.blcklst.com

Membership-based screenplay bank/industry recommendation platform; offshoot of annual industry script development report

Greenlightmymovie: www.greenlightmymovie.com

Submission platform for short films, web series, books, pilot scripts and screenplays

Inktip: www.inktip.com

Screenplay bank; also hosts competitions and lists career resources

International Screenwriters' Association www.networkisa.org/writinggigs

Subscription-based list of script submission calls for ISA Members.

Mandy: www.mandy.com

Jobs in film / tv production.

Media Bistro: www.mediabistro.com

Job listings for media professionals

Spec Scout: www.specscout.com

Industry database combining a script coverage library with a scoring system to highlight the best screenplays circulating Hollywood

Stage 32: <https://www.stage32.com/find-jobs>

Industry networking platform that includes script submission calls and job listings.

Theatre

Broadway Play Publishing, Inc: www.broadwayplaypubl.com

Publishes and licenses the stage performance rights of contemporary American plays

National New Play Exchange: <https://newplayexchange.org/>

Subscription-based digital library platform for showcasing scripts; includes recommendation features and calls for entry opportunities

Original Works Publishing: www.originalworksonline.com

Play publishing and licensing house; accepts submissions from plays that have been fully produced

Pioneer Drama Service: www.pioneerdrama.com

Play publisher targeting the educational, children's and community theatre markets; accepts submissions for plays and musicals

Play Submission Helper: www.playsubmissionshelper.com

Database of play submission opportunities

Playbill: www.playbill.com

Job listings for opportunities within the theatre industry

Playwrights Center: www.pwcenter.org/opportunities

Extensive, continually updated collection of playwriting opportunities including contests, theaters looking for scripts, publication opportunities, fellowships, and more.

Temporary access available virtually and in-person through the Tisch Office of Career Development

Senior Theatre Resource Center: www.seniorthatre.com

Submissions for playscript database geared towards productions by older theatre artists

General

Creative Hotlist: www.creativehotlist.com

Job listings for creative professionals in visual communications

Creatively: joincreatively.com

Portfolio platform for artists to advertise freelance services

Current Public Media: jobs.current.org

Job listings for people in public media

Entertainment Careers: www.entertainmentcareers.net

Jobs and internships in film, television, sports and music - studios, networks, production companies, music, film, tv, radio, VFX, animation, acting, production, post production, PR, design

The Freelance by Contently: www.contently.net
Resources and portfolio creation for freelance writers, includes rate database

Freelancewriting.com: www.freelancewriting.com
Freelance writing resources and job postings

NYU Handshake: nyu.joinhandshake.com/login
NYU's career website for all NYU students and alumni, through the NYU Wasserman Center

Show Biz Jobs: www.showbizjobs.com
Jobs and internships within the entertainment industry

Tisch College Central: www.collegecentral.com/tisch (use the "Search My School's Jobs section")
Tisch's career website exclusive to Tisch students/alumni

Velvet Jobs: www.velvetjobs.com
Curated selection of jobs focused on fashion, entertainment & media, finance and investment and other industries

Writers Market: www.writersmarket.com
In-depth database for the publishing industry including publishing house contact details, what they are looking to purchase, detailed freelance facts, and payment information

Festivals, Development Labs & Contests for Script Writing

**requires application fee*

Film:

*Academy Nicholl Fellowship in Screenwriting: www.oscars.org/nicholl

*American Zoetrope Screenplay Contest: www.zoetrope.com/contests

*Austin Film Festival: www.austinfilmfestival.com

*The Black List database: <https://blcklst.com/>

*BlueCat Screenwriting Competition: www.bluecatscreenplay.com

*Boston International Film Festival: www.bifilmfestival.com

*Cassian Elwes Independent Screenwriting Fellowship: <https://blcklst.com/programs>

*CineStory: www.cinestory.org

*Final Draft Big Break Contest: www.bigbreakcontest.com

Fusion Film Festival: <https://wp.nyu.edu/tischschoolofthearts-fusionfilmfestival/>

*Hamptons International Film Festival: www.hamptonsfilmfest.org

*Hollyshorts: <https://filmfreeway.com/HollyShortsScreenplayContest>

*Humanitas New Voices: www.humanitasprize.org/new-voices

Inevitable Foundation Accelerate Fellowship for Disabled Screenwriters:
<https://www.inevitable.foundation/accelerate>

*London Independent Film Festival: www.liff.org

*Page International Screenwriting Awards: www.pageawards.com

*Screencraft Horror Script Contest: www.screencraft.org/horror

*Script Pipeline: www.scriptpipeline.com

*Scriptapalooza: www.scriptapalooza.com

*Slamdance Film Festival: www.slamdance.com

Sundance Institute: www.sundance.org

*Tracking Board Launch Pad : <https://tblaunchpad.com/feature/>

Universal Writers Program: www.universalgtdi.com/

TV:

*Austin Film Festival: www.austinfilmfestival.com

*Final Draft Big Break Contest: www.finaldraft.com/big-break-screenwriting-contest/

Fusion Film Festival: www.fusionfilmfestival.com

*Humanitas New Voices: www.humanitasprize.org/new-voices

Inevitable Foundation Screenwriting Fellowship for Disabled Writers:

www.inevitable.foundation/fellowship

NBC TV Writers Program: www.nbcuniversallaunch.com/tv-writers-program

New York Television Festival: www.nytvf.com/submit.html

Nickelodeon Writing Program: www.nickanimation.com/programs/writing-program/

Paramount Writers Mentoring Program: www.paramount.com/writers-mentoring-program

*Script Pipeline: www.scriptpipeline.com

*Scriptapalooza: www.scriptapalooza.com

Sesame Writers' Room Fellowship: <https://sesamewritersroom.org>

*SeriesFest: www.seriesfest.com

*Slamdance Film Festival: www.slamdance.com

*Tracking Board Launch Pad: <https://tblaunchpad.com/pilot/>

Walt Disney Television Writing Program (ABC): www.dgectdi.com

Warner Bros. Discovery Access Writers Program:

www.warner-access.com/programs/warner-bros-discovery-access-writers-program

WB Writers Workshop: <https://televisionworkshop.warnerbros.com/writers-workshop/>

Theatre

Ars Nova Play Group <https://arsnovanyc.com/playgroup>

Dramatists Guild Fellowship: <https://dggf.org/programs/fellows/>

Jonathan Larson Grant: <https://americantheatrewriting.org/program/jonathan-larson-grants/>

Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival:

<https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/opportunities-for-artists/pre-professional-artist-training/kcactf/>

Kleban Prize in Musical Theatre: <https://newdramatists.org/kleban-prize-musical-theatre>

New Dramatists: <https://newdramatists.org/admissions>

NYTW 2050 Artistic Fellowship: <https://www.nytw.org/artist-workshop/2050-fellowships/>

Ojai Playwrights Conference: <https://www.ojaiplays.org>

*O'Neill National Playwrights Conference: www.theoneill.org/summer-conferences/npc

PlayPenn New Play Conference: <https://www.playpenn.org/apply>

Public Theater Emerging Writers Group:

<https://publictheater.org/artistic-programs/emerging-writers-group/emerging-writers-group/>

Rhinebeck Writers Retreat: www.rhinebeckwriters.org

Richard Rodgers Development Award: <https://artsandletters.org/richard-rodgers-award/>

*Samuel French Short Play Fest: <https://oobfestival.com/>

Residencies for Writing

Please note that some residencies may charge attendance fees or require participants to cover some of their own expenses so always read carefully before applying!

Alliance of Artist Communities Residencies Directory:

www.artistcommunities.org/residencies/directory

Almanack Screenwriter's Colony: www.almanackscreenwriters.org

Blue Mountain Center: www.bluemountaincenter.org

The Edward F. Albee Foundation: www.albeefoundation.org

Hambidge Center for the Creative Arts & Sciences: www.hambidge.org

Hedgebrook: www.hedgebrook.org

Jentel: www.jentelarts.org

Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts: www.khncenterforthearts.org/residency

Millay Arts: <https://www.millayarts.org/>

Norton Island Residency: <https://easternfrontier.org/how-it-works>

Ucross Foundation: www.ucrossfoundation.org

Virginia Center for the Creative Arts: www.vcca.com

Willapa Bay AiR: www.willapabayair.org

Professional Organizations and Resources:

Film/TV/Digital Writing

The Bitter Script Reader: thebitterscriptreader.blogspot.com

Advice and rantings of a Hollywood script reader tired of seeing screenwriters make the same mistakes

Blackhouse Foundation: www.theblackhouse.org

Advocacy in the film industry, including educational events and networking.

Crafty Screenwriting: <http://complicationsensue.blogspot.com>

Advice and tips from a current professional film/tv writer and former development executive about what it takes to get your script past the first phase

Creative Screenwriting: www.creativescreenwriting.com

Screenwriting news, interviews, and advice columns. Also hosts annual Screenwriting Expo

Done Deal Pro: www.donedealpro.com

Tracks the various script, book, treatment, and pitch sales and options made in Hollywood each day as well as internationally; also hosts database of agents, production companies, and other industry members

Final Draft: www.finaldraft.com

Screenwriting software application that automatically formats your script to Hollywood's industry standards; also hosts annual Big Break Contest

Go Into the Story: gointothestory.blcklst.com



Official Screenwriting Blog of the Black List; offers advice on the creative process and industry insights

Hollywood Scriptwriter: www.hollywoodscriptwriter.com

International digital trade publication that profiles screenwriters, producers, directors, and book-to-movie writers

The Hivemind Unified: www.thehivemindunified.org

A global exchange of information to advance the careers of professionals in entertainment.

“How To Become A Screenwriter In 7 Steps” Article:

<https://thescriptlab.com/features/screenwriting-101/3554-how-to-become-a-screenwriter-in-7-steps/>

How to Manage Your Agent: A Writer's Guide to Hollywood Representation. By Chad Gervich
New York: Focal Press, 2013 – *available through Amazon and other booksellers*

Full of excellent advice for established writers who want to have a better relationship with their representatives and aspiring writers who want to find representation.

Inevitable Foundation: www.inevitable.foundation

Funding and mentoring the next generation of screenwriters.

International Screenwriters' Association: www.networkisa.org

Comprehensive hub of resources for screenwriting, including links to industry data, competitions, submission opportunities, classes, and blogs

Internet Movie Database Pro: www.imdbpro.com

Comprehensive source for movie, TV and celebrity content; includes industry contact information
Temporary access available virtually and in-person through the Tisch Office of Career Development

Organization of Black Screenwriters: www.facebook.com/OBS.WRITERS/

Non-profit organization committed to assisting screenwriters in the creation of works for film and television and to help them present their work to the industry.

Script Chat: scriptchat.blogspot.com

Online community for screenwriters, featuring weekly Twitter chats on professional topics

Script Fly: www.scriptfly.com

Extensive screenplay library with titles for purchase

Script Magazine: www.scriptmag.com

Leading source for news and articles on the craft and business of writing for film and television

- “PRIMETIME: How Do I Submit My Scripts to TV Shows? Article
<http://www.scriptmag.com/features/primetime-how-do-i-submit-my-scripts-to-tv-shows>
- “ALTERNATE ROUTES: Long-distance Networking” Article
<http://www.scriptmag.com/features/columns/alternate-routes/alternate-routes-long-distance-networking>

Scriptnotes: <https://johnaugust.com/scriptnotes>

Podcast series by screenwriters John August and Craig Mazin covering everything from the craft to the business to the best ways to get yourself writing.

Scriptwriters Network: www.scriptwritersnetwork.com

Non-profit organization for screenwriters providing educational programming, networking opportunities, and other professional development resources

Simply Scripts: www.simplyscripts.com

Database of hundreds of downloadable scripts, screenplays, and transcripts of movies, television, anime, unproduced and radio shows

Studio System: www.studiosystem.com

In-depth contact database of talent representatives, managers and network executives; also contains industry data research and analysis

Temporary access available virtually and in-person through the Tisch Office of Career Development

“20 Things You Should Never Do In A Pitch Meeting” Article:

www.indiewire.com/2015/07/20-things-you-should-never-do-in-a-pitch-meeting-59921/

TV Writing: <https://sites.google.com/site/tvwriting/home>

Database of free downloadable tv scripts, including pilots

Wordplay: <http://www.wordplayer.com/forums/welcome.html>

Online community for screenwriters

Write Movies: www.writemovies.com

Popular writing competition, writing consultancy business, as well as tips, articles, interviews, reviews and a thriving online community in English, French, and German

The Writer’s Guild of America, East: www.wgaeast.org

The Writer’s Guild of America, West: www.wga.org

Labor union for US film and tv writers, as well as the writers of original digital media content.

Writer’s Guild Foundation: www.wgfoundation.org

Premier resource for emerging writers and movie and TV lovers in Hollywood; programs include Veterans Writing Project and the Shavelson-Webb Library – the world’s only library devoted entirely to writing for the screen.

Theatre Writing

American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP): www.ascap.com

Association of composers, songwriters, lyricists and music publishers of every kind of music; manages performance royalties, advocacy and service for music creators.

Asian American Theatre Artists Collective: www.aatheatreartists.com

Theatre maker organization that offers think tanks, shared resources, and an online community resource directory

Black Theatre Network: www.blacktheatrenetwork.org

Non-profit organization for artists, educators, scholars, students and theatre lovers.

Doollee: www.doollee.com

Online database of playwrights and all theatre plays written or produced in English since 1956

The Dramatists Guild: www.dramatistsguild.com

Professional association for the interests of playwrights, composers, lyricists and librettists writing for the stage

Howlround: www.howlround.com

An arts newsjournal, map, tv channel, and gateway to the global theater info hub

Internet Broadway Database: www.ibdb.com

Online database for Broadway theatre information, including production credits, grosses, and awards

National New Play Network & New Play Exchange: www.nnpn.org

Promotes collaboration between non-profit theatres to support new plays and playwrights, including grants and the New Play Exchange database

Playbill: www.playbill.com

Theatre news and features, production listings and Playbill Vault production credit archive

Rise Theatre Directory: www.risetheatre.org/directory

National personnel directory created to promote visibility of individuals who work backstage, behind-the-scenes, and in support of theater making.

Spectra Theatre Database: www.spectra.theater/library

Comprehensive database of regional and off-Broadway theatre information and production credits

Theater Resources Unlimited: www.truonline.org

Educational and networking organization committed to helping professionals understand and best navigate the business of theater

Theatrical Index: www.theatricalindex.com

Digest of Broadway, Off-Broadway, Touring Productions, and the theatre premieres across the country; contains contact details for agents and producers

Temporary access available virtually and in-person through the Tisch Office of Career Development

World Fringe: www.worldfringe.com

Association which unites, strengthens & connects the Fringe Festival Sector and global Fringe community through introduction, communication, education and the dissemination of information. Includes searchable lists of annual festivals.

Video Ggame Writing [[see the Tisch Spotlight on Game Design for more resources!](#)]

Narrative News: <https://narrativenews.substack.com/>

Monthly newsletter that rounds up jobs, resources, and opportunities within the games industry for narrative designers/game writers.

Twine: <https://twinery.org/>

Open-source tool for telling interactive, nonlinear stories

General Writing

Absolute Write: <https://absolutewrite.com/forums>

Large active online forum for writers and publishing professionals in fiction, nonfiction, screenwriting, freelancing, and copywriting.

The Freelance by Contently: www.contently.net

Resources and portfolio creation for freelance writers, includes rate database

Interactive Fiction Competition: www.ifcomp.org

Annual celebration of new, text-driven digital games and stories from independent creators.

Interactive Fiction Database: www.ifdb.org

Wiki-style community member-based game catalog and recommendation engine for interactive fiction.

National Writers Union: www.nwu.org

The only labor union that represents freelance writers working in all genres, formats, and mediums

NYU Production Lab: wp.nyu.edu/productionlab

This creative incubator for the entire NYU Community connects students of all disciplines. The lab provides opportunities for collaboration, mentorship, events, financing and space, as well as a full slate of events.

Writer's Market: www.writersmarket.com

In-depth information on the publishing houses and career advice

General Industry News

American Theatre: www.americantheatre.org

Quarterly magazine covering theatrical trends and events, stage artists of every stripe, and economic and legislative developments affecting the arts. Its main purview is America's wide-ranging network of professional, not-for-profit theatres.

Broadway Briefing: www.broadwaybriefing.com

Daily email news digest for all things related to the theatre industry.

Deadline Hollywood: www.deadline.com

Authoritative source for breaking news in the entertainment industry.

Hollywood Reporter: www.hollywoodreporter.com

Entertainment blog surrounding films, television, music, and more.

The Industry: <https://theindustry.co/>

Curated daily newsletter covering film/tv/digital industry news, festivals, international news, actor and indie film maker spotlights, tech news BTS, and more

The Interrobang: www.theinterrobang.com

News articles and features focused on comedy.

Movie Maker Magazine: www.moviemaker.com

Leading resource on the art and business of making movies and the world's most widely read independent film magazine.

Nothing for the Group: <https://nothingforthegroup.substack.com>

Weekly newsletter round-up of American regional theatre industry news and reviews

Variety: www.variety.com

Entertainment trade publication primarily focused on film, tv, and theatre.

Vulture Comedy: www.vulture.com/comedy

Comedy industry coverage

Log line Do's & Don'ts

Why don't these log lines work???

- A California grad student travels to New York in search of love and respect.
- A regular guy inadvertently becomes the most sought-after lover in Lake Tahoe.
- A college coed decides to lie about everything to build herself up.
- When a werewolf estranged from his hometown returns, he is surprised by what he finds.
- Boy marries girl. Girl dumps boy for other girl. Girl wants boy back.
- When Joe cheats on his wife, he embarks on a plan to make things even by getting her to cheat on him, but is she the goodie-two-shoes she pretends to be?
- Three attractive, gorgeous college roommates vow to solve their boyfriend troubles during their senior year.
- A postman goes underground to fight terrorism in his community.
- A man and his sister organize a PTA meeting for a school they never attended and the sun finally shines on them.
- A college administrator goes on a quest to find the very first typewriter ever invented.

Log lines don't work when:

They're boring or simply uninteresting, vague or muddled:

- A California grad student travels to New York in search of love and respect.
- A college administrator goes on a quest to find the very first typewriter ever invented.
- When Joe cheats on his wife, he embarks on a plan to make things even by getting her to cheat on him, but is she the goodie-two-shoes she pretends to be?
- A postman goes underground to fight terrorism in his community.

They don't make any sense:

A man and his sister organize a PTA meeting for a school they never attended and the sun finally shines on them.

We're left hanging:

- When a werewolf estranged from his hometown returns, he is surprised by what he finds.
- A regular guy inadvertently becomes the most sought after lover in Lake Tahoe.

We ask: What are the consequences?:

A college coed decides to lie about everything to build herself up.

They betray the genre you've selected:

[Genre: Horror – Really?] A man and his sister organize a PTA meeting for a school they never attended and the sun finally shines on them.

The industry doesn't get any sense of who your protagonist is:

Joe... A man... A college administrator... A woman... A boy... A fish...

We're not sure who the protagonist is:

- Boy marries girl. Girl dumps boy for other girl. Girl wants boy back.
- Three attractive, gorgeous college roommates vow to solve their boyfriend troubles during their senior year.
- A man and his sister organize a PTA meeting for a school they never attended and the sun finally shines on them.

We're not sure what the obstacle is:

- A postman goes underground to fight terrorism in his community.
- A college coed decides to lie about everything to build herself up.

Log lines work better when:

- They grab our attention.
- We get a hint of who the protagonist is: An average Joe... A blind man... A twitchy college administrator... A mysterious woman... A one-legged boy... A cantankerous fish...
- We get a sense of forward movement (arc of your story).
- We understand the obstacle(s) your protagonist may face.
- The line is consistent with the genre.
- We understand or get who your antagonist is.

So, are these log lines a little better?

- An insecure teenager in a family of superheroes who has no powers of her own uncovers an assassination plot and must become a real hero to save her parents and the world.
- A nervous bride is recruited on her wedding day by the FBI and finds herself on the run from her groom-to-be, the FBI and a homicidal maniac who is bent on silencing her.
- A gay General struggles to cover up the details of a deadly military accident that killed his long-time lover as blackmail threatens to tear apart his life and legacy.
- A middle-aged woman in a hopeless marriage throws caution out the window when she falls in love with her daughter's future father-in-law, four days before the wedding.
- A rookie transit cop on the verge of losing her job sets out to capture a troubled deaf teen after he steals a NYC subway train, only to discover the teen is her long lost brother.

Suggestions for "healthy" log lines:

Don't run out of gas now!

Respect the time and effort you put into writing your screenplay.

Have fun and spend some time thinking about this.

Make several attempts and draft different versions.

Specify who the protagonist is.

Young, old, neurotic, depressed, bankrupt, stricken with cancer, clumsy, lovable, etc...

Someone does something and this happens...

Someone does something that sets something in motion and there are consequences.

Example: A career, two-bit, narcoleptic burglar finally pulls off the job of his life, but discovers his booty belongs to a Mafia king who sets out to cut him up in little pieces.

Do not write a movie trailer narrative – write a log line.

There's a difference between advertising a movie and pitching a story.

Do not assume because you've written a catchy pitch that you will be contacted.

Cute and clever does not always allow room for full exploration of the log line.

Congratulate yourself on having finished a first draft of a full-length screenplay.

It doesn't matter whether it is terrible or mediocre, if you are passionate about the idea! Get through the "homework assignment" – the first draft. Have fun sculpting the second and third drafts. It is important to complete a screenplay before you go on to the next...The Screenwriting Gods will be pleased!