

NAME: XXXXXXXXXXXXX

TITLE: Untitled

SHORT FILM FULL COVERAGE

STORY: So far, the writer is on the right track with their script story wise. From the beginning of the script, we're thrown into a teen boy being interrogated for vandalizing the mayor's car, which he didn't do, supposedly. From there, we get a flashback where we kind of understand that the teenage boy has a good heart, but of course, early on, we're unsure why we should believe his innocence. It isn't later until we find out that his father did the graffiti which seems to come out of nowhere. Most of the scenes didn't contain any conflict and the stakes weren't raised throughout. Perhaps the writer could restructure their film and provide some background on the protagonist. Start with the flashback and show how his family treats him and how the teenage boy is good inside, then have the inciting incident happen. Usually before writing a script, it's always best to have a beat sheet handy so the story is organized and not scattered throughout.

CHARACTERS: With every script, whether it's a short film or feature, there must be character development, which the reader didn't see. Without character development, we don't have a reason to root for the character in the end. The short might need to be rewritten so we understand the struggles the teen boy goes through and why we should cheer him on throughout. When the writer goes through their next draft, think about each scene, and consider the characters actions they make. Is this character someone audiences can relate to? What are his needs and wants? What's going to prevent him from reaching his goal in the end? Why should we care about them?

PACING: When writing a script, it's important to make sure that scenes aren't too long or too short. The interrogation scenes for example were a bit long, and could be easily trimmed down

STRENGTHS: The idea overall is original and after making a few changes to the script, audiences are sure to enjoy this. From an outside perspective, the reader can tell the writer is new to screenwriting and was easily impressed with how much knowledge they knew when they were writing their draft.

WEAKNESSES: The most important thing about screenwriting is formatting. One way the writer could improve their script overall is putting their script into screenwriting software, but if they choose to use Google Docs, I'd recommend they use "Screenplay Formatter". With any type of screenwriting software, it will do the formatting for you, such as capitalizing the characters names and scene headings. It's important to note, before you start the script, to put "FADE IN:" at the beginning before the first scene heading and end the film with "FADE OUT" or "CUT TO BLACK". That way, it will be easier for readers to know when the film starts and when it ends.

Another formatting note the writer could make is the flashback scene. Before we see the flashback, it's always best to say, "BEGIN FLASHBACK" at the end of the scene, followed by the scene heading (Example: EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT – DAY), have the flashback scene, and at the end of the scene write "END FLASHBACK" or "BACK TO PRESENT" and put the next scene heading in. Although the flashback is descriptive, it's important to make sure speak in present tense. There's a lot of on the nose action, which makes it hard for the reader to visualize in their minds. For example, the flashback begins with, "We begin to see the kid trace his memory back to even one time he can remember being called good. We see him taking the blame. We see him getting criticized in a harsh way, we see a moment of insecurity that lets us into why he over-compensates that "I'm good and can't be hurt by anything" persona. We enter the boy's nearly empty home as he has yet again been left for another night because his father has gone out on another binge of drinking. We go into the young

teens room as he's about to turn over and go to sleep disappointed at his father's consistent actions, being startled by the sound of the front door opening he hears his father stumble in, frustrated he gets up to confront his father." The action lines need to be improved and use less of "We see." Not only that, but we also need 2 different scene headings in this flashback and perhaps have some dialogue in these scenes. Show the reader he's being treated in a harsh way. Show the moment of insecurity that lets us into why he over-compensates that I'm good and can't be hurt by anything persona. Perhaps adding some dialogue to the flashbacks will greatly improve the scene.