

TREATMENT

1. WHAT IT IS

A treatment is your film told scene by scene in present-tense prose: who does what in which scene, how the scene ends, how it leads into the next. No dialogue. Length: 1-3 pages for a short film, 8-20 for a feature.

2. WHEN YOU NEED IT

Between synopsis and screenplay – the cheapest place to fix structure: moving a scene in a treatment means moving a paragraph. Funding applications and production packages often ask for it.

3. EXAMPLE (THE FIRST TWO SCENES)

Cemal the butcher opens his shop at seven in the morning. He wipes the glass of the empty counter, dusts his scales, sharpens his knife. He looks across through the window: on the far side of the pavement, the window of a giant supermarket, with a poster on it – “Opening in two days”.

At noon a single customer comes in. An old woman asks for two hundred grams of mince; when the scales show twenty grams too many, Cemal takes the extra back. On her way out she says they're opening on Friday. Cemal doesn't answer.

4. COMMON MISTAKES

- × Writing dialogue – if a conversation matters, it appears as action.
- × Inner thoughts – write what the camera can see.
- × Hiding the ending – a treatment shows the whole flow.

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TITLE OF THE FILM

Treatment · [date] · [writer]

Logline:

1. OPENING

[Who, where, inside what order? The film's world and the hero's normal – present tense, visible.]

2. THE BREAK

[The event that breaks that order. What does the hero lose, what do they start to want?]

3. ESCALATION

[Scene by scene: each attempt, what stands in the way, what it costs. Each paragraph is one scene.]

4. THE LOWEST POINT

[The moment they lose the last thing they had.]

5. THE ENDING

[The decision and its result. What does the hero do, how does the world change? Write the ending.]

Check: ☐ Present tense ☐ No dialogue ☐ One scene per paragraph ☐ No inner thoughts ☐ Ending written

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