

# NFDC SCREENWRITERS' LAB 2025

## DEFINITIONS

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This document has been prepared as a guideline for filling out the application form. Please read the definitions carefully before submitting your application to ensure that your submission materials meet our requirements.

Please bear in mind that all applications must adhere to both the minimum and maximum word limits in order to be accepted.

Please also note that all submission material (including script and dialogue) are required to be written in **English (dialogues included)** even if the final film is in any Indian language.

The submission requirements for the Screenwriters' Lab 2025 application are -

### **1. Logline (< 30 words)**

A logline is a short description that provides the WHO, WHAT and HOW of the story. Loglines are often published on websites or printed in programme guides.

For example:

*Titli* - In the badlands of Delhi's dystopian underbelly, Titli, the youngest member of a violent car-jacking brotherhood, plots a desperate bid to escape the 'family' business.

*Queen* - A Delhi girl from a traditional family sets out on a solo honeymoon after her marriage gets cancelled.

*Rang De Basanti* - The story of six young Indians who assist an Englishwoman to film a documentary on the extremist freedom fighters from their past, and the events that lead them to relive the long forgotten saga of freedom.

### **2. Short Synopsis (100-150 words)**

The short synopsis outlines the plot and the major turning points of the story. It addresses the WHO, WHAT and HOW of the story while clearly describing the beginning, middle and end.

One should also get a clear idea of who the protagonist(s) is, what journey he/she embarks on, and the resolution.

### **3. Long Story Synopsis (min. 6 to max. 10 pages | 12 point, single spaced, 1" margin)**

The long story synopsis describes the emotional journey of the protagonist(s) – the inner conflicts of characters and what is at stake for them with a clear indication of the story's plot. The synopsis also gives a sense of the story's setting in time and space. Although the story synopsis will elaborate the plot which drives the story, giving a sense of the characters is equally important as it is the characters' key choices and actions that drive the plot.

The synopsis includes the decisions and actions the characters take in pursuit of their goals, the hurdles they face and what they do to overcome the barriers, whether they win or lose and where we leave them in the end. Revealing the end is crucial in a synopsis and the story should not end in three dots. The synopsis is the complete story, not just the premise that leaves readers curious about what happens next. The readers must be convinced that the end is a logical, dramatic outcome of all the events before. The aim of a well-written synopsis, then, should be to excite the readers about the possibility of the story as a film. Remember that story synopsis should not be based on what you want the story to be about. Instead tell the story as clearly as possible.

AND

### **SCREENPLAY (min. 60 pages or above)**

The screenplay should be in English. The dialogues should also be written in English (not Roman Hindi) in industry accepted format, irrespective of the language of the film.

**Please Note** - If you are submitting the first draft of your script, then you may not submit a long synopsis. But in case you do not have the first draft yet and are still working on the script, then you need to submit the long synopsis along with the first few pages (a minimum of 60 pages) or more of your script.

### **4. Writer's Statement (100-150 words)**

A writer's statement is your personal connection with the script. The following points are only to get you started. Do tell us anything else that you think will help us know the genesis of the project better -

- What is your personal connection in wanting to tell this story?
- Where does the story come from?

- If this is a resubmission of material we have considered previously, how has the material changed or transformed since we last read it?

### **5. Writer's Bio (max. 300 words)**

A summary of your professional work that may include awards and recognition, educational qualifications and any other details that directly relate to screenwriting / filmmaking.

### **6. Past Work**

Please make sure that the links to the past work you submit informs us about you as a Screenwriter or Director.