

NFDC SCREENWRITERS' LAB 2026

DEFINITIONS

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 2026 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. Five Page Treatment

A 5-page treatment is a concise narrative document that presents the complete story of the screenplay from beginning to end in prose form. It should clearly convey the project's story, characters, structure, themes, tone, and overall creative vision, including the resolution.

Unlike a screenplay, a treatment is written as a flowing narrative and may emphasize the writer's intended emotional and thematic impact. It helps mentors, producers, and evaluators quickly understand the project's potential, artistic direction, and audience appeal before reading the full script.

The treatment should address the following:

- The complete story, including the ending
- Main characters and their arcs
- Key plot developments and major turning points
- Themes, genre, and tone
- The writer's creative vision for the project

The treatment should be approximately five pages in length and written in a clear, engaging narrative style.

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

A Writer's Statement is a personal reflection that explains the writer's connection to the project, the inspiration behind the story, and their creative intentions. It provides insight into the project's origins, significance, and the writer's vision, helping evaluators understand the motivation and purpose behind the screenplay. Applicants are encouraged to address the following questions:

- Why do you want this story to be told?
- What do you hope to gain from participating in the Lab?
- What opportunities or outcomes do you hope to achieve through Film Bazaar?
- Who do you believe is the audience for this project?

These questions are intended as a starting point. Applicants are welcome to include any additional information that may help the selection committee better understand the genesis, relevance, and creative vision of the project.

5. CV (1-3 pages)

A CV is a detailed professional document listing your screenwriting and filmmaking experience, education, awards, fellowships, labs, grants, production credits, festival selections, publications, and relevant employment.

Purpose: To provide a factual record of your professional achievements and experience.

Typical Sections:

Contact Information

Education

Screenwriting Credits

Filmography

Labs & Fellowships

Awards & Grants

Festival Selections

Professional Experience

Publications (if relevant)

6. Past Work

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