

250 Script Development

The quality of our films (and our lives) is determined by the questions we ask.

Questions are motivated by unsolicited trials and tests.

The cause of most human problems is ambiguity. – not knowing which decision is the right one.

Questions regarding technical information:

1. How long is the film to be?
2. What format will it be shot on?
3. Who will make up the production team and how much license will they each have to change the story?
4. What sort of time frame is there to write, shoot and edit the project?
5. What are the financial assets or restrictions available to make the project?

Questions regarding story concepts:

1. What is the genre of this film and does the script follow the rules and norms of this genre?
2. What is the writer's premise behind this film?
3. What is my premise as a filmmaker about this subject matter?
4. What is the intended impact of the story on your audience? How is the audience to think and feel?

Questions regarding the drama:

1. The major situation in which the characters find themselves is what?
2. What are the major forces in conflict?
3. Does the script have a clearly defined plot line? What are the plot needs?
Does the material shot on film cover the needs of the plot in the script?

4. Could a reordering of sequences make the plot clearer or would such an effort change the plot? Would a performance adjustment of any of the characters improve or diminish the power of the plot?
5. Does the exposition in the script help clarify the plot or does it cause the slow down the story telling?
6. Does the plot have momentum from scene to scene or does it lug down with unnecessary details or redundant information that make the story sluggish with irregular stops and starts?
7. As the story progresses are its turning points from scene to scene and act to act sufficient enough to propel the story?
8. As the story progresses is it predictable or does it offer exciting twists and surprises?
9. When we finally to reach the decisive climax do we end the story too abruptly or does it seem to linger on too long?

Questions regarding character: The core of every interesting personality lies in the person's conflicts and unfinished business.

1. Through which character do we see the story?
2. How do other characters see the story?
3. What is the resolution to the major character's unfulfilled desires?

In conclusion we can begin to understand how in the finish of a film that the editor participates in the writing and rewriting process through the accounting of the

story's dramatic elements. As the film is being molded into shape, the editor critiques it against those elements and adjusts the film to accommodate them. As the project is brought to time and then previewed by several audiences for their response, the editor carefully reshapes the plot, characters and the dramatic elements of the show refining the elements for clarity and emotional impact and gradually finishes the final rewrite.