

Writing a Video Script

The script for your video contains two main parts: a description of each scene explaining background, scenery, music and props, and the dialogue to be spoken by actors. Here is an excerpt from a video script:

Scene Description

A medieval church with Copernicus and a church leader. Backdrop could include religious symbols and pictures of stained glass windows.

Dialogue

Religious Leader: What is this nonsense I hear about your theories on astronomy? Is it true that you believe the earth revolves around the sun?

Copernicus: I have studied the movements of the planet for 30 years. It is my conclusion that the earth is not the center of the universe. Indeed, just the opposite is true. The earth and all the planets revolve around the sun.

Religious Leader: We shall see what the leaders of our church have to say about your ideas, Copernicus. May God help you if you make these ideas public. I shall not!

When writing your scene descriptions, remember to:

- Include a description of each scene in your script. Your description should include backdrops, music, scenery, and props.
- Include notes about which actors appear in each scene.
- Develop scene descriptions for the whole video that can be understood by the entire film crew.
- Create a list of credits that includes the names of all members of your crew.
- Include a bibliography of your sources.

When writing dialogue for actors, remember to:

- Use language that is appropriate for your audience and for the era of history you are studying.
- Read over dialogue to be sure that it is logical, clear, and understandable.
- Avoid long speeches or monologues in order to keep the pace of your film upbeat and maintain audience interest.

Remember that the script must be polished and edited *before* you begin filming.