

Film Production – Screenplay Structure - *Conflict*

Without conflict, you have no action. Without action, you have no character; without character, you have no story. And without story, you ain't got no screenplay. Syd Field

Concept: Conflict is the essential ingredient in any individual film scene. It is the smallest dramatic piece in a movie. In progressive order, a film is arranged... conflict, event, scene, sequence, act, full screenplay. **Conflict occurs when obstacles are placed between a character and his/her goal.**

External Conflict: External conflict takes place when a character encounters obstacles in the physical world. These obstacles include anything one can physically touch... this includes other characters.

Internal Conflict: Internal conflict is when a character struggles with dilemmas inside themselves. Suffering from guilt or a lack of confidence is a classic example of internal conflict.

Characters: For a character to be nuanced, and for a film to be rich... your main characters should be forced to face both internal and external conflicts.

ASSIGNMENT:

Part One: Select a movie that you have seen. Then, identify and briefly explain **five examples of conflict**. Be sure to incorporate both **external** and **internal** obstacles.

Part Two: Make up your **own** narrative story line. Create a **character and a goal**. Then, **list five obstacles** between the character and his/her goal. Again, be sure to identify both **internal** and **external** obstacles.

Format:

- Name, date, class period, title.
- Double-spaced
- Proper writing mechanics (spelling and grammar)
- 1 to 1 ½ pages

___ 20 pts.