

Film Adaptation Assignment

The Task: Producers for a new film adaptation of the play, *Cyrano de Bergerac* have created a competition to find a budding screenwriter. Your task as is to work you're your partner to write a screenplay of a scene from the play that an audience of 2010 would enjoy.

Step One: Decide with your group members on a scene from the play to adapt. Remember that you are creating a visual and aural medium; so choose a scene that will be interesting to watch. For a play this is not difficult, since it was intended for an audience, but for other stories it can be difficult to make this transition.

Step Two: Decide to what audience you want to target the film. This will make a huge difference in how you write the adaptation.

Step Three: Decide on a setting for the film. Will it take place in the early 17th century Paris like the play? Or will yours be a modern adaptation like the *Romeo + Juliet* version?

Step Four: Decide if you will keep the story exactly like the play, make some modifications for film, or make you own original version. Remember to consider how your audience (and producers) will feel about your changing a classic!

Step Five: Using the screenplay format, begin writing your adaptation. Think about what makes some of your favorite adaptations good movies. Be sure to consider what special cinematic elements you want to incorporate into your scene. Be creative but stay true to the story. One of you is the scribe to write out the essentials.

Step Six: The other person will type up your adaptation. The other student proofreads it for errors in writing and format.

Step Seven: Turn it in and cross your fingers that your version will be accepted, and you will begin an exciting career in Hollywood!