

NICHOLL FELLOWSHIPS IN SCREENWRITING

NICHOLL SCORING RUBRIC



SCORING CATEGORIES

STORY

- Does the story have an original premise?
- Are the premise and story new or fresh for you?
- Does that story idea start the movie forward?
- Does the story itself have a strong beginning, middle & end? How about two out of three? If the story is non-linear, does it make sense?
- Does this script make you feel that the writer is taking you on a journey?
- Does the story connect with you emotionally, whether it's a comedy or drama or another genre?

VOICE

- Does the script have a distinctive and original voice? (Or do you feel that you've read or seen this movie before?)
- Does reading the script make you think, "This person genuinely has the potential to develop into a professional writer"?
- Does the story show us something we haven't seen before?

CHARACTERS

- Does this script have vivid characters who each speak in their own voice?
- Are the characters new or fresh for you?
- Do you want to know what happens to them?
- Does the central character change over the course of the story? If it's an ensemble film, does more than one character change?
- Do the dialogue and tone seem consistent from scene to scene?
- Does the way the people speak fit the tone and setting of the story?

CRAFT

- Does this writer know how to use description and dialogue to create suspense, tension, drama, comedy and conflict? Does the conflict propel the story forward?
- Do the main characters take actions that move the story along?
- Are these actions in keeping with who these people are? Or do they happen "conveniently"?

MEANING AND MAGIC

- Does this script genuinely make you want to keep reading? Are the themes of the story thought-provoking, across genres?
- Is the story "about something" that might spark discussion among friends? When you finish reading the script, even if it has flaws, do you still feel that there's something special about it?
- Is there an indescribable "something" that elevates this script above the ordinary? Does the idea have a purpose as opposed to being simply about misery?