SCREENPLAY SUBMISSION FAQs
Contact: Writers@oscars.org

Per the Writers Branch Executive Committee's decision, all General Entry submissions are required to provide a PDF of the final shooting script for Oscars® voting purposes only. Please review the 99th Academy Awards Rules, Campaign Promotional Regulations, and key dates regarding the Writing Awards rules.

Screenplay submissions technical specifications:

- Screenplays should only be submitted in PDF format.
- PDFs should be submitted as read-only.
- Screenplays should be provided in English. We will accept a translated version.
- The title page of the PDF should include the title of the film. Names and contact information should not be on the title page.
- Screenplays should follow standard script format (including margins) and be text only.
- No images, including campaign promotional images, should be included in the PDF.
- Links to URLs should not be included in the PDF.
- Screenplay PDF files should be compressed and should not exceed 5MB in size.

To whom will the screenplays be made available?
Screenplays will be made available to the Writers Branch members and members who have Writing Award voting privileges via the Academy Reading Room for the nominations voting round. Screenplays will be made available to all active Academy members via the Academy Reading Room for the finals voting round.

When will the screenplays first be made available?
Screenplays will be available in the fall via the member site through the end of finals voting.

What steps will the Academy take to protect the submitted screenplays?
Screenplays will not be downloadable and will be view-only.

Will the Academy accept watermarked screenplays?
Screenplays watermarked with, "Property of..." or "Copyright of..." will be accepted.

How long will the Academy be retaining screenplays?
Screenplays will be viewable on the member site until June, after which the Academy Film Archive will preserve the submitted screenplays.

What does the Academy define as the "final shooting script"?
The final shooting script is the approved final script for principal photography. The definition of "final shooting script" has been designated and approved by the Writers Branch Executive Committee and the Writers Branch Governors.

Do screenplays have the same due date as the general entry submission?
Yes, screenplays must be submitted by the general entry deadline. If a submission is already in review and you would like to submit a screenplay, please send the screenplay PDF to Writers@oscars.org, and we can add it to the submission.

Do documentary film submissions need to submit a screenplay?
If you would like a documentary film to be considered for the Writing Awards, you must submit a screenplay PDF in standard screenplay format.

How are screenplay classifications (adapted vs. original) determined?
Film submissions do not submit to a specific writing category, and the Writing Awards administration is unable to determine or suggest a category determination. The Writers Branch Executive Committee will review all legal billing for eligible titles and resolve questions of category determination and eligibility.

In general, the Academy will defer to WGA category classification, except where:

- There is no WGA category classification.
- WGA category classification has been called into question.

When considering category classification, the Writers Branch Executive Committee will refer to the following guidelines:

- The project is generally classified as ADAPTED if:
    - It is based on intellectual property listed in the film's credits.
    - It is based on a sequel, remake, film, documentary, and pre-existing characters.
    - It is based on previously published work, including but not limited to:
        - Novels, nonfiction books, articles, plays and short films (including the screenwriters' own exhibited work), television shows, comic books, games, toys, podcasts, poems, songs
        - Historical subject/true story that is based on a credited source (book, documentary, article, etc.)

- The project is generally classified as ORIGINAL if:
    - It is based on a myth or legend and not a particularly published version.
    - It is based on a game or toy that contains no characters or narrative (e.g., Battleship).
    - It is based on a short film made as proof-of-concept and not shown as a finished work.
    - The writer(s) are adapting their own unpublished or unproduced work.
    - The film is an historical subject/true story in which the writer has performed their own research and used multiple sources.
    - It is an original fictional film created by the writer.

OTHER RULES:

To be eligible in either writing category, an explicit screenwriting credit must be present in the film's legal billing. Credited companies or entities of any kind are ineligible for consideration in the Writing categories. All screenplays, regardless of category, must be human-authored.

The Writers Branch Executive Committee shall resolve all questions of eligibility and rules. Once the Writers Branch Executive Committee has made its final decision, category determination appeals and additional materials are not accepted.

For screenplays whose category determination is under review, the Writers Branch Executive Committee may request a statement from the credited writers of the film.