

Suggestions For a Strong Script

- **BIG PICTURE:** Can this story be told in a 10-minute format? Strong 10-minute plays:
 - Focus on a single incident rather than covering a long span of time.
 - Include one core conflict.
 - Get right into the action with minimal backstory or exposition.

- **CHARACTERS:** Are the characters well-defined? Strong characters:
 - Exhibit individual qualities that make them unique and specific.
 - Have clear objectives and actively struggle to get what they want.
 - Take action that is rooted in who they are and how they see the world.

- **DIALOGUE:** Does each line of dialogue serve a purpose? Strong dialogue:
 - Reveals character traits and conflict.
 - Moves the story forward.
 - Reflects the writer's choice of setting, style, and genre.

- **PLOT:** Does the plot have a defined beginning, middle, and end? Strong plots:
 - Focus on a situation with high stakes or critical urgency, and include compelling or intriguing action.
 - Include obstacles the characters' must overcome as they pursue their objectives.
 - Take the characters on an emotional, relational, or situational journey and end with a significant transformation, even if the setting is the same.

- **IMPACT:** At the end of the play, what will the audience know, wonder, or be thinking about? Plays that make a strong impact:
 - Leave the audience with big ideas and themes to consider.
 - Feature memorable moments, particularly at the play's climax.
 - Illuminate some aspect of the characters' experiences or the play's subject matter.