



Film Production Documents

Understanding Script, Storyboard & Shot List



SCRIPT

The Blueprint of Your Story

What It Is

A written document that tells the complete story with dialogue, action, and scene descriptions. It's the foundation of your film.

Purpose

- ✓ Tell the story in words
- ✓ Define characters and dialogue
- ✓ Establish tone and pacing
- ✓ Secure funding/approval
- ✓ Guide all departments

Who Uses It

Writer, Director, Producers, Actors, All Departments



Contains

- ✓ Scene headings (INT/EXT)
- ✓ Action descriptions
- ✓ Character names
- ✓ Dialogue
- ✓ Transitions
- ✓ Scene numbers (shooting script)

EXAMPLE :

INT. BANGALORE HOUSE - MORNING

Ajji (70s) lights a lamp in the prayer room. The flame flickers across her weathered face. She places a small metal box near the deity and touches it gently.

GRANDSON (O.S.)

Ajji, will you eat breakfast?

Ajji smiles but says nothing.



When Created

FIRST - Pre-production, before everything else



STORYBOARD

Visual Blueprint of Scenes



What It Is

A series of illustrated frames (drawings/images) that show what each shot will look like, arranged in sequence like a comic book.

Purpose

- ✓ Visualize the story before filming
- ✓ Plan composition and framing
- ✓ Communicate director's vision
- ✓ Plan camera angles and movement
- ✓ Identify technical challenges

Who Uses It

Director, Cinematographer (DOP), Production Designer, VFX Team

Contains

- ✓ Visual frames/sketches
- ✓ Shot type (Wide, Close-up, etc.)
- ✓ Camera angle
- ✓ Character placement
- ✓ Movement arrows
- ✓ Key dialogue/action notes
- ✓ Lighting notes

EXAMPLE :

[FRAME 1: CLOSE UP]

 [Sketch: Wrinkled hands lighting lamp]

- Shot: ECU (Extreme Close Up)
- Lighting: Warm, lamp glow
- Focus: Hands in sharp focus

[FRAME 2: MEDIUM SHOT]

 [Sketch: Ajji's face lit by lamp]

- Camera: Static
- Emotion: Reverence, sadness

When Created

SECOND - After script, during pre-production planning



SHOT LIST

Practical Shooting Checklist

What It Is

A detailed, numbered checklist of every single shot needed for the film, organized by scene or shooting location for efficiency.

Purpose

- ✓ Plan the actual shoot day
- ✓ Ensure no shots are missed
- ✓ Organize by location/setup
- ✓ Estimate shooting time
- ✓ Track what's been filmed

Who Uses It

Director, Cinematographer, 1st AD, Camera Crew, Script Supervisor



Contains

- ✓ Shot number
- ✓ Scene number
- ✓ Shot type/size
- ✓ Camera angle
- ✓ Movement (pan, tilt, dolly)
- ✓ Lens choice
- ✓ Equipment needed
- ✓ Actors in shot
- ✓ Estimated time

EXAMPLE :

Shot #1 | Scene 1
Type: Wide Shot
Angle: Eye level
Movement: Static
Lens: 35mm
Actors: None (establishing)
Duration: 5 sec
Notes: Exterior of house, morning light
Est. Time: 15 min
Status: [] Not shot [✓] Shot

Shot #2 | Scene 1
Type: Close Up
Angle: Low angle
Movement: Slow push-in
Lens: 85mm
Actors: Ajji
Equipment: Slider
Notes: Hands lighting lamp
Est. Time: 30 min



When Created

THIRD - Just before shooting, often day-before or morning-of



Production Workflow

1

SCRIPT

Write the story with dialogue and action



2

STORYBOARD

Visualize scenes with drawings/frames



3

SHOT LIST

Create detailed shooting checklist



4

SHOOT

Film according to the plan

Quick Comparison Table

Aspect	Script	Storyboard	Shot List
Format	Text/Words	Visual/Drawings	Numbered List/Spreadsheet
Focus	Story & Dialogue	Visual Composition	Practical Execution
Detail Level	Scene-level	Shot-level (visual)	Shot-level (technical)
Primary User	Writer/Director	Director/DOP	Director/1st AD/Crew
When Used	Development/Pre-Production	Pre-Production	Production (Shoot Day)
Mandatory?	✅ Yes	⚠️ Optional (but recommended)	✅ Yes
Time to Create	Weeks/Months	Days/Weeks	Hours/Days
For "Mane Ulidittu"	✅ You have this	✅ I created this	❌ Need to create before shoot

