



# ELA Virtual Learning

# Creative Writing

May 20, 2020



## Creative Writing

### Lesson: Wed., May 20

**Objective/Learning Target:** Students will write their own spec (or original) script based on their practice.



## Creative Writing

**Review:** Students following along the past couple of weeks have studied existing sitcoms, created outlines, brainstormed ideas, and familiarized themselves in general with writing stories for the screen. This week, we will put those ideas into practice by writing a full teleplay (or screenplay specifically for television).



## Creative Writing

**Warm-up:** Today we're going to be considering the issues with a story's second act, which is notoriously problematic to write.

Read [this breakdown](#) of the common elements of a second act. Take notes in your journal as you read, defining terms with which you may be unfamiliar.



## Creative Writing

**Lesson:** We've learned that Act One serves as a set up for the entire episode; Act Two complicates and forwards the incident established in Act One. This is challenging because it's difficult to maintain momentum, but you can achieve this (while maintaining audience interest) in a couple of fairly basic ways: obstacles and subplot. As the protagonist works toward his goal, complicating his progress creates additional sources of tension while developing character.



## Creative Writing

**Lesson (cont'd):** Yesterday, we watched [this clip](#) from *The Office*. In it, Michael learns that he's the only one not invited to a barbecue. [His attempts to learn why](#) (and potentially gain an invite to the party) serve as the ongoing sources of tension (and comedy!) for the episode. Watch the linked clip above to see how this works.



## Creative Writing

**Practice:** As you work into Act Two of your script, focus on the scenes that will serve as the “spine” of the story--the main actions of the protagonist to achieve what he wants. (Note: the protagonist doesn’t have to be someone we like or root for; they’re simply the character around whom the main action revolves.) These scenes may not be in sequence, but tomorrow we will focus on other scenes that will break them up!



## Creative Writing

**Model:** [The Office \(“Email Surveillance”\) script](#)





## Creative Writing

### **Additional Practice/Resources:**

[How to Become a Television Comedy Writer](#)

[Screenwriting Glossary](#)

[Screenplay Formatter Add-On for Google Docs](#)

[Act One: The Set-Up from \*The Script Lab\*](#)