

FROM OLD SCREEN TO SCRIPT (OR, YOUR NOVEL)

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Saturday, Oct. 18, 11 - 11:50 am

While many of us use our imaginations to write action or dramatic scenes, what about taking actual scenes you see and putting them to words on a page?

Writing my first "horse" book, I needed to do some deep diving into how horses move, run, rear up, even stand. I also needed to look at mustang (wild horse) roundups here in the Southwest, many from private videos as well as public youtube segments. When it came time to "translating" that into words on paper, I thought "How difficult can this be? I don't have to imagine a thing, it's all right there in real life."

However, I found it to be much more difficult than I imagined. In fact, I looked at the same videos 5, 8, even 10 times or more trying to capture the drama, the actions, the responses from people, the geography and topography, even the smells and sounds while being concise, keeping it interesting, exciting, and suspenseful.

It occurred to me this might be a great exercise for a workshop, especially a virtual one.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS AN OPTIONAL EXERCISE, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO SUBMIT YOUR CREATIVE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS WORKSHOP (but I hope a lot of you do)

Here is an old movie, *The Mark of Zorro* (please forgive if an ad pops up, youtube seems to like the arbitrary placement!). Highlight, copy, and paste this URL into your browser.

<https://youtu.be/MEuiSKAba4U?si=Z1GAjUOGMIP3nz2T>

Your assignment: Move the cursor forward to begin at approximately 1 hour and 20 minute mark (as the fight begins), watch for approximately 2.5 minutes. Watch the segment as many times as you need - then, write! This clip has dialogue, you can use it or substitute, even add your own. Use suspense, descriptions, perhaps even humor, it's up to you.

Parameters: 800 words maximum, 12 pt. Arial or Times font, word document, double spaced.

You can submit your creative anonymously if you want (no name or identifying marks).

Please email it to info@tcsmg.com by Wednesday, Oct. 15) as well as any questions you have. I will choose 5-7 of them, more if time allows, to read out loud and participants can comment (if they want).

Again, submitting your creative is optional, but at the least, I hope you have fun and it expands your writing horizons at least a little.