

Assistant Director Prep

Driving Principle: A Reductionist Approach

“**Reductionism** is a **theory** in psychology centered on reducing complex phenomena into their most basic parts. ... The purpose of **reductionism** is to simplify processes by looking at their smallest elements, thus “reducing” something rather complex into its most simple.”

1. Script Breakdown

-Read the script straight through once without any agenda - picturing it as the audience will on the screen.

-On the second pass look out for formatting issues, and begin lining out the scenes.

“The script is the blueprint of the film. You will now have the job of helping the rest of the crew translate that blueprint into a story on screen.”

-Measure the scenes into 1/8ths

-Use highlighters, pens or pencils to identify each element of the scene.

-Input the scenes and elements into schedule software.

2. Prelim schedule (or not)

At this point, you may have enough info to start building a prelim schedule or you might not or don't want to. You can leave it in continuity order. Somethings you might be asked to do are to group scenes by locations, or by cast.

3. Director's Scouts

These are creative level scouts usually involving the Director, Production Designer, and location manager. Usually the line producer or UPM will join, and if available the DP. These scouts are looking at multiple options for each location needed with the goal of choosing the one that best serves the script.

4. Prep Meetings

-Concept Meeting: Usually kicks off the prep in TV. The showrunner/writer will talk through the script by scene imparting their vision in a room with all of the department heads.

-Dept Head meetings: Props, Costumes, H/MU, SPFX, Stunts, Cars, BG

5. Scheduling

-Locations, Day/Night work, Cast availability, Continuity, no false-moves,

emotional load on an actor, kid time.

6. Tech Scouts

- Get the director to clearly state their vision for each scene in each location.
- Give the working crew time to make notes.

7. Cast rehearsals in prep

8. Camera tests / Other special tests in prep

9. Production meeting