

IDEA GENERATION

Writing Prompts

3 minutes - pen to paper, don't lift it, free write, stream of consciousness, no censoring, follow wherever your insight takes you

Look at what you've written and see what jumps out at you: circle/highlight it, notice any recurring words, feelings, themes

choose top 3 words - or a new word it inspires in you and journal about it - 3 minutes what do these words bring up for you?

What are your favorite kinds of stories? What books could you not put down? What movies make the hairs on the back of your neck stand up? What about them do you most love? Dig deep. Maybe it looks like genre but when you think harder there are similar themes/issues/characters/storytelling styles. Describe them.

What is distinct about your life experience? What have you lived that not many other people have? What personalities traits are distinctly you? What combination of childhood family, neighborhood, young adulthood, education, experience of trauma or lack thereof have defined you?

How would you describe as specifically as possible what your voice is right now?

Think about what's going on in the world right now that could inspire your piece. Describe in as much detail as possible a news headline / moment that has stuck with you, maybe something you saw on the street and how it could relate contextually with what's going on in the world of your film

What kind of woman fascinates you right now? Describe her in detail (could be good, bad, ugly) - get as nuanced in your description as possible: what does she look like? smell like? what makes her laugh? who is she afraid of? who does she feel powerful over? who does she love? who does she hate? what is her secret fantasy? what was her mom like? does she have any kids? why/why not? does she live alone? why/why not? what does she sleep in? what makes her get up in the morning? what do people think when they see her on the street? What does she think people see in her?

What environment fascinates you right now? Location, time period, stakes (i.e. the rainforest on fire; the white house situation room; Ukraine; migration; Ancient Egypt...)

hopefully now know some things about yourself, what's intriguing you, scaring you, surprising you, what fascinates you most, what excites you - think about what you love most - Take it all in, a lot of this you may not use directly but perhaps it's inspired you to think about specific details in the world of your show...3 minutes what do these words bring up for you?

Utilizing the words, themes, characters, location, voice you've examined here, now write a description for your show and see what has emerged to fill it out. Don't be precious about it. This doesn't have to be your opus, the most genius show concept the world has ever heard of, this is an exercise for getting creative juices flowing, get out of your way and just let it flow.

Think about reversals - if it's a drama, what is something hilarious that could happen in this world? If it's a comedy, what is something poignant?

If you've got some characters with a specific point of view, what's the most opposing character you could throw in their way?

What would make you just love this show more than anything? Is there anything you want to write or include but you're afraid it's not your place or you don't have what it takes? Write that.

Write one scene

Journal about what that process itself was like/what it brought up for you.