

CCWC 2018
Screenwriting Part 1:
"Act One: Making the Audience Fall in Love"
Brian Bird/Instructor

I INTRODUCTION

* Opening question... *What are your favorite films? Why?*

*The wrong answer _____.

*The right answer _____.

II THE MAIN GOAL OF ACT ONE

A. The most important goal of the first act of your screenplay _____
_____.

* The simplest structure for a screenplay is this:

• Act One _____.

• Act Two _____.

• Act Three _____.

III THE BONE-STRUCTURE OF GOOD CHARACTERS

A. *Physiology*

B. *Sociology*

C. *Psychology (which is the product of the first two)*

D. *Spirituality*

IV NATURE VS. NURTURE

- A. Because life is constantly changing, your character will be the sum total of his or her _____.
- B. Just as the actions of others effect his actions, his actions likewise effect _____.

V THE DIALECTICAL APPROACH

- A. Good conversations are composed of three parts:
 - The original proposition _____
 - A contradiction in the form of _____
 - We resolve the contradiction by coming up with a whole new proposition called _____
- B. Contradictory Characters – All good characters are a maze of _____.
 - * Don't be afraid to create characters who have flaws _____.
 - * Don't be afraid of "Red on White."

VI CHARACTER GROWTH

- A. The only predictable thing about human nature is that it _____.
Characters must have _____.
 - * It is a journey of growth _____.
 - * There is only one possible scenario in which characters don't grow: _____.
- B. Without character growth _____.
- C. Character arcs must be _____.