

Find ideas around you

Ideas for film scripts can be found all around you. Here are five different places to find inspiration and ideas that you may not have thought of! You could use the space below to record your findings and ideas, or use separate paper.

Rewrite a scene from a story that you like.

Choose an unimportant and certainly not 'iconic' scene from a favourite book, comic or videogame. Make sure that you adapt the story and characters so that it suits the tone of your film or genre but also add new elements or unique changes that make the scene that little bit more important.

Be a spy.

This one might not be for everyone, but a classic movie-trope, a spy trying to find out information! When out in public be mindful of people around you. Can you see someone who looks interesting or looks like there might be more to them than what you can see? If they were a character in your chosen genre, would they be the protagonist, a love interest or maybe a classic villain? Keep an ear out also; being respectful and polite, conversations of other people can be fascinating starting points for ideas. Catching the middle of a chat could be an interesting prompt for your story as can a group of people chatting away. Being respectful and polite is key here though!

Check your emails.

Find junk or spam email. Use it to form the basis of a story by imaging that you are the person sending the email and that it's a genuine call for help or advert for a miracle product. Or, you could consider what happened if you replied and it turned out to be genuine, or if replying to the email did something to you or your computer.

Use Facebook.

Have a look at Facebook, choose a photo of someone you don't know well and imagine them as a character in your chosen genre. For example, if you were creating a science fiction film for example, could this be the last photo they took before trying a time travel machine for example? If you're creating a teenage film, maybe this is a photo they used for their school year book-why was this photo so significant? The idea here is to not use your 'friend' and their real life, instead to use your imagination in the chosen genre and to use the photo as a spark of an idea to develop a story from. And make sure that you don't use their real name!

Rewrite the news.

Find a news story, it could be about absolutely anything. Now twist the details so that it fits the generic conventions of the genre you're working in. Changing the setting is probably the easiest way to start; a story about a robbery in a bank might not be that interesting, but if becomes a story about a robbery of a fuel storage facility on Mars, it suddenly becomes the basis for an interesting science fiction story for example.

Notes/ideas/findings