



MANUSCRIPT LAYOUT

Manuscripts tend to be a little less technical than screenplays. That means there is more flexibility when it comes to specific layout choices. However, there are some standards editors in the publishing biz go by. For ScriptShark, spacing is a key element – it helps define the amount of required time.

Layout: Manuscripts should implement standard fonts (like Courier and Arial) 12 pt. Pages should be Double Spaced – or approximately 20-25 lines per page with 1" margins. While publishing houses like printing on one side of the page, ScriptShark likes to save trees – so you can double side if you like. Each page should have a header with manuscript title, your name and page number, and please provide a cover sheet with your contact info, title info and manuscript word count.

Style Guides: If you are new to writing prose, take a little time to check your material against either the *Chicago Manual of Style* or the *MLA Handbook*. While these may be overtly academic, it is elemental that you are familiar with one of them.

View Sample On Next Page:

SCRIPTSHARK MANUSCRIPT SAMPLE

Below is an example of industry standard page format for manuscript submissions. Please note that font and header/footers may vary from project to project. However page count requirements for manuscripts are defined by the double-spaced format below. Novels or books may be submitted in the manner in which they are formally published.

Manuscript pages are typically double-spaced, with a 12 size courier font. Manuscripts as well as manuscript proposals are often sold to a film entity even before selling to a book publisher. There are many Hollywood writers who make their living (and a very nice one at that) by adapting novels into screenplays.

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