



1 HOUR DRAMA LAYOUT

In many cases, the one-hour dramatic teleplay is like a short version of a standard screenplay. But, like its half-hour cousin, each show tends to create a unique format. That being said, there are a few key elements that help define the standards.

Act Structure: One Hour dramas usually possess a teaser and four acts. The total run-time should be approx. 46 minutes (pages). Although newer commercial-less dramas, such as HBO-based programming, may run slightly longer. Reversals and key plot points often lead into commercials.

Text Formatting: Many contemporary one hour teleplays follow the screenplay format – but may focus less on action and more on dialogue. On average, most one hour dramas apply more dialogue in a scene than a feature screenplay. Additionally, watch budget-heavy set pieces and an overbearing amount of advanced scenic changes.

View Sample On Next Page:

The industry standard format for one hour teleplays requires Courier font no less than a 12 point font size and margins no less than one inch from the page borders. The one hour teleplay is similar to a screenplay, but takes into account commercial breaks and other episodic requirements.

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. SWANKY LOUNGE - NIGHT

Soft jazz plays in the background, and scattered patrons whisper in dark corners.

ADA , 43, is seated at the bar, sipping quietly on a martini. A BARTENDER approaches.

BARTENDER
Anything else for you, Ma'am?

She stares off into space, looking lost and isolated in the dim glow of the room.

BARTENDER
Ma'am?

Ada is jolted from her daze.

ADA
Just the bill please.

The bartender walks off.

Ada grabs a cigarette from an elegant case, and flips it between her lips. She then fumbles through her bag, searching..

A MAN'S HAND intrudes into view, holding a lighter. The flame sparks to life.