



A Professional's Guide on How to Create a Storyboard

What is a Storyboard?

It's a way of telling the story of a film in pictures along with a few captions to explain the action and script. When you have your idea of what your film is about you need to draw simple sketches to tell the story - a bit like a comic.

1 Check your story and think through your film.

Have you found the best way to tell it?

Are you sure you have a complete film?

Do you know how it starts and how it ends?

Could it be told more simply? Simpler is usually stronger.

2 Can you do it with less?

Remember every actor you draw in the film has to be paid, fed, have their travel paid and may need to have a costume and have make-up. So if you draw a crowd of 5 people, remember how much extra cost you are incurring - do you need them all?

3 Think of the script

If there is a conversation (or dialogue) in the film think of what each actor would say and if there needs to be a narrator (or Voice Over) what would they say?

4 Storyboard

Draw each scene of the film - you don't have to be an artist, using matchstick men sketches would be fine!

5 Write in any Stage Directions

Stage Directions are instructions that help the person reading your storyboard to know what is happening. Keep these as minimal as possible.

6 Write in any Script

Write out the words of each actor or voice over.

Describing how the camera moves

Here are a few of the words that filmmakers use.

- Close Up** C/U When you see the subject very close - it might be a face or an object. It draws the viewers' attention to details or it might allow the viewer to see the expression of someone's face really clearly.
- Wide Shot** The camera shows a large area - this may be a whole room or a landscape - using a wide lens.
- Long Shot** The camera picks out something from a long way away using a long lens.
- Zoom** When the camera moves from showing a Wide Shot to a Close-Up.
- Pan** When the camera turns left or right.
- Tilt** When the camera is turned to allow the viewer look upwards or downwards.
- VO** Voice Over - When you hear the voice of a narrator