

# HOW TO WRITE TV SERIES BIBLES

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## SOME BASIC HEADINGS TO HELP SHAPE YOUR CONTENT

### **Title**

The name of your show!

### **Genre**

Don't list too many genres, otherwise it gets confusing. Stick to one or two, e.g. Crime Drama, Comedy Horror.

### **Tagline**

If you have a tagline in mind, it can be useful to include it. Don't get it confused with your logline! A tagline is a strap line commonly used on posters to heighten interest and appeal, e.g. 'In space, no-one can hear you scream'.

### **Format/Slot (e.g. 8 x 30', 12 x 60')**

If you know how many episodes you'd like to do, and how long they're going to be, you can mention it here.

### **Logline**

Usually, a logline is a one-sentence summary of what your TV series is about, e.g. 'Breaking Bad is about a modest high school chemistry teacher who gets diagnosed with fatal cancer so he decides to start cooking meth so he can provide for his family after his death.'

### **Synopsis/Overview**

A synopsis/overview of the series is helpful to provide added context about the idea, the characters and the broader world of the story.

### **Characters**

Character profiles are essential.

### **Style**

You might want to mention a specific style that you want to achieve with the show.

## **World/Setting (Arena)**

Mention the setting/world of the story, and highlight any important detail.

## **Tone**

Conveying the right tone is important, and if you can imbue your bible with the tone of the show (light, comic, dramatic, cheeky) then that will help the reader better understand and connect with all the information.

## **Pilot Episode**

A synopsis of the pilot episode.

## **Structure**

Sometimes it's useful to explain the specific structure of how the episodes/stories are told, e.g. non-linear style, bookended by flashforward scenes etc.

## **Season 2+ (series arcs), Ambition (series 52)**

How does season one end? What happens in series 2? And beyond? Does it have potential to run and run?

## **Visual Realisation**

What's the series going to look like? Perhaps detail some basic production values. 'Hand-held docu-drama style, gritty urban setting, real life locations'. You can include photos/picture and visual inspiration if you like, even from other TV/films.

## **Statement of Intent/Theme**

Do you have something meaningful to say? What's the bigger purpose or meaning to the show? How will it resonate with the audience?

## **Transmedia/Other formats**

Does the show have transmedia potential?

## **Your bio/contact details/agent details**

Don't forget to include your contact details.

## **FOR MORE...**

For more practical writing advice check out "**Write A Script In 10 Weeks**" by Tim Clague and Danny Stack. Available in paperback and on Kindle.

<http://amzn.to/2AtZKkv>

