Line Scripts

A line script is a fantastic tool for a filmmaker to decide what shots to have and how long that shot should last on set before calling, "Cut."

REMEMBER: filming is *different* from editing. In filming, you will shoot longer takes of what you need so that you can chop it up and edit it later.

A good choice is to shoot the whole scene, or a large part of it, if you have an actor in your shot WHETHER THEY ARE TALKING OR NOT.

Although it may *seem* efficient to just film actors only saying their lines and no more, it is a bad choice because it will severely limit your editing.

In a line script, you will have your script page on the right side of the notebook (like normal), and you will have a sheet of paper on the *left* of your script notebook where you will write you shot list that corresponds to the script page across from it.

You will number your scenes at the scene heading, and I recommend that you LETTER your shots so that you don't get confused. Once you get to "Z" your next shot will be "AA" and so on.

Draw lines through your script to signify how long the shot will last. The whole thing should look like a stretched-out "I". Letter the shot on the script where it starts, and then write out the shot type on the shot list on the opposing page.

If a shot is going to continue onto the next page of the script, draw a "↓" at the bottom of the line to signify that it continues. On the next page of the script, start the shot with a "Y" to signify that it is a continuous shot. On the shot list page of the continuous shot, I recommend you write "(cont.)" and repeat the shot description again.

Always make sure shots overlap each other at some point to help maintain continuity.

Here are some short-hand terms you can use in your shot descriptions:
- (cont) - continued shot
- (m) - master shot
- (est) - establishing shot
- (ins) - insert
- (c/a) - cut-away
- (rev) - reverse angle