

# REQUIREMENTS FOR SCRIPT SUBMISSIONS:

*Here's what we are looking for!*

---

## Original Unique Well-written Practical

### 1. **Original**

Be sure that you fully own the scripts you submit! Yes, you will draw your inspiration from other scripts, TV shows, movies, etc... However, for us to publish your script, it must be original work by you.

### 2. **Unique**

Your script should bring something new to the table. We are looking for creative, innovative, and unique scripts for our customers. If you are covering a topic that has been covered dramatically before (which almost everything has) make sure that your script covers it in new and exciting way. Some ideas that can be common are CSI, food or cooking analogies, and reporters on Bible stories. Anyone can tell a story from Jonah's perspective, but did anyone ever ask the whale what he thought about the whole thing?

### 3. **Well-Written**

This includes:

- ***Basic Story Structure***  
Introduction, plot, resolution or ending question. We want a well-written story.
- ***Well-defined characters***  
Introduce us to your characters quickly but efficiently. Make sure they are believable. For example, if you have a non-Christian character, they probably will not use church words such as "sanctification" or "evangelism". Make them real so your audience can connect with them. Ask yourself: why are the characters the way they are?
- ***Watch the "cheese factor"***  
Many scripts make their points in a cheesy way. Sometimes this can draw a few chuckles, but more often it simply annoys your audience. If you use cheese, use high quality cheese. We want feta, not cheese-wiz! Be careful and use sparingly.
- ***Make sure the story does not drag.***  
If you can communicate the same thing using fewer words, do so.
- ***Make sure someone has proof read and edited your script before you send it in!***

#### 4. **Practical**

Know your audience. Also, know who will be producing your scripts.

- ***Remember churches will be performing these scripts.***  
Make sure the set is suited for a church stage. No set changes and minimal props and costumes are preferred.
- ***Time your script for the type of service it is written for.***  
Your script should either fit inside a Sunday morning service (8-10 minutes max, preferably shorter) or stand as its own event.
- ***Don't overuse "christianese".***  
We don't want to confuse any visitors to a church who may not be well versed in church language.
- ***Don't alienate specific doctrines.***  
A script should be able to be used by churches of all denominations.
- ***Make sure the story is practical.***  
The story should also be believable. We want the "oh that's me" factor. The audience should be able to relate to the characters and story line.

## Suggestions for a successful script

1. ***Read as much as possible!***  
Read scripts, plays, books, blogs—read whatever you can! Be able to articulate what is successful, what is not, what you like, and what you do not like about what you read so that you will know what you want in your own writing.
2. ***Watch as many skits and other performances as possible.***  
Once again, be able to decide what works and what does not so that you know what you would like to incorporate into your own work.
3. ***Get educated!***  
Take classes on literature, writing, script writing, or English classes. The more you learn about the written word, the better you will be at writing. Acting or theatre classes are helpful as well. You are writing for actors to perform; it helps to have some experience acting so that you can write in a manner that is useful for your actors.
4. ***Participate in drama as much as possible.***  
If your church has a drama team, join it! Is there a community theatre in your area? Get involved. Get as much experiences as possible.
5. ***Have others read your scripts out loud.***



Sometimes what we write sounds great in our head. But keep in mind that your script might be chosen by someone else to perform, so it's a good idea to have others read it aloud. When a play is written, it's very common to have a "reading" where other actors get together to help out the playwright so the playwright will know what to fix about his script.

6. ***Check your theology***

We have a whole process of checking to make sure our scripts are in line with God's Word, and you should too. Even if you think its sound theology, be sure to check with one or two other people who have a good knowledge of the Bible.

7. ***Write!***

The only way to become a successful writer is to practice. Don't get discouraged if your first attempts are not well received. Keep at it. The more you write the better you will get. We can't wait to read what you write!