

BBC Writers Script Submission Style Guide

Length Requirements

- **Scripts must be between 30-130 pages in length.**

This page count applies to dialogue pages only and excludes title page, cast list, and other front/back matter.

Scripts under 30 pages or over 130 pages will be marked ineligible.

A note on formatting

There is no single "correct" way to format a script, and you may see variations across the industry. The guidance below is provided to help writers submit work in a format that is clear, readable and familiar to readers. It is guidance rather than diktat. If you already have an established formatting style, that's fine; but if you're unsure where to start, we recommend following the conventions set out below:

Font & Formatting

- **You should use industry-standard font and formatting appropriate to the medium:**

TV script: Courier, 12-point

- A good example from The Cage:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/writers/documents/the-cage-ep1-yellow-amends-v2-12.06.25.pdf>

Film script: Courier, 12-point

- A good example from The Duchess:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/writers/documents/the-duchess-final-jeffrey-hatcher-anders-thomas-jensen-saul-dibb.pdf>

Radio Drama: Courier 12-point, Arial 12-point or Times New Roman 12-point (consistent and readable formatting required)

- A good example from Home Front:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/writers/documents/home-front-s1-ep3-06.08.1914-jimmy-macknade-katie-hims.pdf>

Stage play (theatre script): As for Radio - Courier 12-point, Arial 12-point or Times New Roman 12-point (consistent and readable formatting required)

Maintain standard margins – do not use unusually wide margins to artificially inflate page count.

Do not include headers or footers that alter standard formatting conventions.

Please ensure that your scenes and pages are numbered.

Page & Scene Layout

- **Do not use "scene-per-page" formatting.**
i.e. do not start a new page for each scene.
Scenes should flow continuously, with one scene following another on the same page where appropriate.

Anonymity Requirements

- **Your script must be completely anonymous.**

Do not include:

Your name;

Your agent's name;

Any identifying information about you.

Failure to comply will result in the script being marked ineligible.

Please be aware that some commercial screenwriting software will *automatically* create a title page when you convert your script to a PDF document. This may sometimes include your name. Therefore, when you have created the PDF version of your script, PLEASE check that your name has not been put on the title page. It is your responsibility to ensure that your name is removed. If your name is on your script, even if this was inadvertent, your script will be marked ineligible.