

SCENE ANALYSIS/BREAKDOWN QUESTIONS

INSTRUCTIONS – please read carefully:

This is a WORKSHEET intended to help you organize your exploration of your scene. . It is not a test.

Read the entire screenplay without taking notes.

Read the entire screenplay a second time, listing the Given Circumstances of the story as you read.

Read the entire screenplay two more times refining your list with each reading.

Answer as many questions as you are able before rehearsing. Continue to revise as you rehearse.

Briefly answer the following questions. I repeat, “BRIEFLY”.

Only short answers are useful to the director.

Render the answers as BULLET POINT phrases – Not long Sentences

“Everything that is exact is short.” KEEP IT SIMPLE

WORK IN PENCIL – revise often

What are the **GIVEN CIRCUMSTANCES – THE REAL STORY FACTS** in the lives of the characters and the story. List as many as you can.

What are the **GIVEN CIRCUMSTANCES – THE REAL STORY FACTS** in the lives of the characters and the story *that apply to this scene?* Make a selection from your complete list.

What are the **IMMEDIATE CIRCUMSTANCES – where are we and what’s happening RIGHT NOW?**

Give a name to the **OCCASION** for the scene.

What are the **GOVERNING SOCIAL OBLIGATIONS** that rule the scene? Are there any rules, rituals, ceremonies or behaviors that the occasion, setting or relationship require.

IMAGINARY CIRCUMSTANCES - Come up with a **USEFUL IMAGINARY FACT**. Look for something that would enhance the characters' commitment to objectives. *Suggestions may not contradict REAL FACTS.*

Try to imagine the **MOMENT BEFORE** the scene in a way that adds specificity, energy or otherwise enhances the actors' sense of reality.

What is your central character's **OBJECTIVE**? What is his or her **AGENDA** in this encounter?

Can the agenda be pursued openly or does your character need a **COVER**? What's his/her cover?

What is the main **OBSTACLE** to your character achieving his/her agenda?

What is your character **DOING** to achieve his/her objective? *What tactics or strategy does he/she employ?*