Playwrights for Change
Formatting Guide

Please use the following guide to make sure your scripts are in Standard American Format before submitting them to Playwrights for Change competition.

Include the title of the play only on the first page, and center it.

Page numbers keep pages from getting lost or mixed up. Number pages in the upper right hand corner.

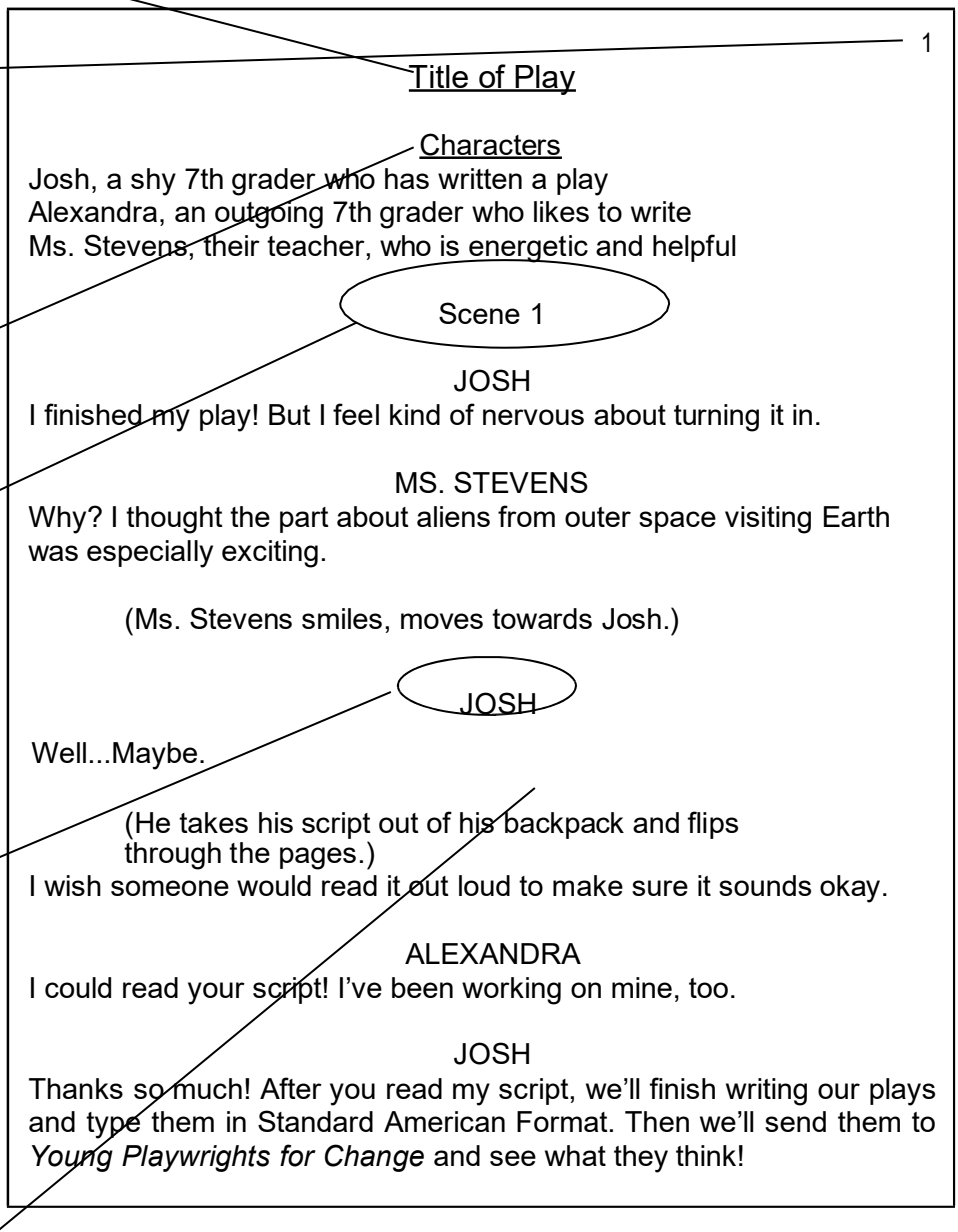
List all of your characters at the beginning of your script. This helps a producer know how to cast your play.

Mark the beginning of a new act or scene. Do this in the center of the line, not at the left margin.

List the full name of the speaker in ALL CAPITAL LETTERS in the center of the line.

Type your script with a space between the last line of one character's dialogue and the name of the next speaker.

Indent stage directions and put parentheses around them. Stage directions in the middle of a speech start on a new indented line. The speech continues on the next line.



1

Title of Play

Characters

Josh, a shy 7th grader who has written a play
Alexandra, an outgoing 7th grader who likes to write
Ms. Stevens, their teacher, who is energetic and helpful

Scene 1

JOSH
I finished my play! But I feel kind of nervous about turning it in.

MS. STEVENS
Why? I thought the part about aliens from outer space visiting Earth was especially exciting.

(Ms. Stevens smiles, moves towards Josh.)

JOSH
Well...Maybe.

(He takes his script out of his backpack and flips through the pages.)
I wish someone would read it out loud to make sure it sounds okay.

ALEXANDRA
I could read your script! I've been working on mine, too.

JOSH
Thanks so much! After you read my script, we'll finish writing our plays and type them in Standard American Format. Then we'll send them to *Young Playwrights for Change* and see what they think!

Always type your script.
For paper copies, print on one side of the paper only.