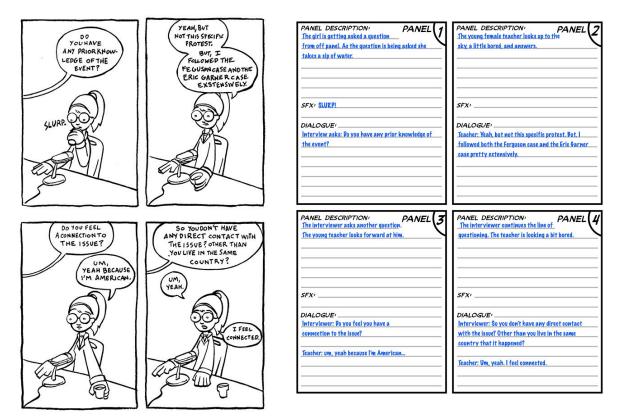# Notes On Scriptwriting

Writing a script is one of the most crucial, and difficult, parts of the comic creation process. In the script-writing process you will imagine the finished product in your mind and subsequently write a sequence of the information that will be presented in the comic. The script will force you to think about all of the elements that will appear on the final page of your comic and critically analyze their value. The good part about writing a comic script is that it is way easier to write and make edits to.

Imagine if you went straight into the comic creation process. Your idea would start strong, but you realize by the third page of art you have created that you have ended the story too soon, or worse you don't have enough space to create the rest of your comic! Writing the script will help you avoid these problems.

1.

In this tutorial we are going to focus on how to fill out the **Script-Writing Worksheet**. We are going to look at one of the final comics created for the model in this project and go through the process of filling out the worksheet connected to that page. Feel free to go to steps 5 and 6 to reference the final comic art and the finished Script-Writing Worksheet.
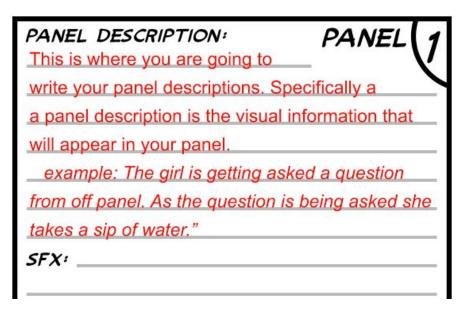
2.

Start by focusing on the panel description of panel one. In the example below you can see the finished panel that the description is describing. You won't have a finished panel, instead picture your finished comic art in your imagination and write exactly what is happening in the first panel of your page.

Be as simple with your description as possible. Indicate any elements in the panel that are necessary to convey the visual information needed for this part of the story.

PANEL DESCRIPTION: PANEL 1

This is where you are going to
write your panel descriptions. Specifically a
a panel description is the visual information that
will appear in your panel.
   example: The girl is getting asked a question
from off panel. As the question is being asked she
takes a sip of water."

SFX: _____

_____

3.

In the "SFX" box on panel 1 in the Script-Writing Worksheet indicate whether there are any sound effects in this panel of the page.

SFX: SFX stands for "Sound Effects". Put any sound effects that will apear in this panel here.

DIALOGUE: _____

SFX: Example: The girl drinks here water "Slurp" appears on the page.

DIALOGUE: _____

4.

For the dialogue section you are going to write down anything that your characters are saying. In the final comic all of this will appear as text within a word bubble and not an image.

DIALOGUE: This is where you are going to write what, exactly, will appear on the page in the word balloons area.

Example:

Interviewer: Do you have any prior knowledge of the event?

5.

That is really all there is to filling out the script-writing worksheet. Below you will see a completed version of the worksheet.

PANEL DESCRIPTION: PANEL 1
The girl is getting asked a question from off panel. As the question is being asked she takes a sip of water.

SFX: SLURP!

DIALOGUE:
Interview asks: Do you have any prior knowledge of the event?

PANEL DESCRIPTION: PANEL 2
The young female teacher looks up to the sky, a little bored, and answers.

SFX:

DIALOGUE:
Teacher: Yeah, but not this specific protest. But, I followed both the Ferguson case and the Eric Garner case pretty extensively.

PANEL DESCRIPTION: PANEL 3
The interviewer asks another question. The young teacher looks forward at him.

SFX:

DIALOGUE:
Interviewer: Do you feel you have a connection to the issue?

Teacher: um, yeah because I'm American...

PANEL DESCRIPTION: PANEL 4
The interviewer continues the line of questioning. The teacher is looking a bit bored.

SFX:

DIALOGUE:
Interviewer: So you don't have any direct contact with the issue? Other than you live in the same country that it happened?

Teacher: Um, yeah. I feel connected.

6.

This is the comic that came out of that finished worksheet. Use this as reference to see how choices were made in filling out the **Script-Writing Worksheet**.