MASTER THE REWRITE

MODULE 1: FEEDBACK

by Script Society

Module 1: Lesson 2
SEEKING & RECEIVING FEEDBACK

As you may have guessed, the first step in the rewriting process is <u>seeking feedback</u>.

As screenwriters we often become so immersed in our screenplays that we can no longer tell what is working and what is not. Seeking feedback from *external sources* is necessary in order to improve your screenplay. A fresh set of eyes will be able to provide you with a more accurate analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of your draft and (hopefully) solutions to fix any issues.

There are two sources you can seek feedback from:

SOURCE #1: Friends & Family
SOURCE #2: Industry Professionals

Both sources are valuable for different reasons.

Source #1 will provide you with emotional responses to your script and let you know if anything doesn't make sense (from the perspective of the view). Source #2 will provide you with a more in-depth look at the structure and more technical aspects of your script.

Because of this, it's recommend you seek feedback from both sources.

Good feedback should provide you with notes that are *constructive and encouraging*.

Great feedback will give you suggestions on how to improve your screenplay.

Bad feedback will focus only on the negatives while providing no solutions or encouragement.

Seeking feedback from one person is not enough. My recommendation is to seek feedback from at least two different people (but hopefully more).

Why?

Because feedback is based on personal opinions. You should never make changes to your screenplay based on the opinion of one person. What one person loves, another person may hate.

This is where feedback gets a *little complicated.*

On one hand, feedback is valuable and will help you progress in the screenwriting process. On the other hand, it should all be taken with a grain of salt. This is why we recommend gaining feedback from multiple sources. By allowing a wider range of people to respond and react to your script, you will get a better sense of what everyone seems to like and dislike.

So, before you progress any further in this course, go get some *real feedback* on your screenplay. Send it to your best friend, your mom, anyone in your life that you trust. Then, send it to an industry professional (like us!)

If you are already getting feedback from Script Society, but are looking for another professional source, we recommend checking out the following three script analysis companies:

SCRIPT BUTCHER
IMPROVING SCRIPTS—*ONE HACK AT A TIME*

Selling Your Screenplay.com
with Ashley Scott Meyers

SCRIPT READER PRO

Once you have received feedback from all your sources, take a moment and prepare yourself. Put your ego aside and get yourself in the right headspace to read and listen to this feedback *objectively*. It's never smart to read feedback with expectations. This is likely to cause anger or disappointment if they don't match what you thought they would.

Instead enter the process with a neutral mind, ready to listen, read and accept, all the while remembering feedback is a tool to improve your screenplay.

None of this is a personal attack on you (even though it might feel like that way sometimes!).