Action lines (Part of script) - Handout

The ACTION sets the scene, describes the setting, and allows you to introduce your characters and set the stage for your story. The actions are in <u>present tense</u>.


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DOROTHY, TIN MAN, SCARECROW and TOTO walk through
a thick forest in the Land of Oz. Dorothy carries
a basket, the Tin Man carries an axe and oil can.
The road is paved with yellow brick and is
covered with dried branches and dead leaves. The
Emerald City is seen far in the distance.
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Action is written in REAL TIME. Every moment in a screenplay takes place NOW. Use the active voice (He opens the door).

When you introduce a speaking character for the first time, you should put the name in all .CAPITAL LETTERS.

Rule #1: Every paragraph of action lines should be 3 lines or less.

Rule #2: Write visually! Easy to visualize. Evocative verbs.

Rule #3: Only write what we can SEE or HEAR on screen – and nothing more.