



MINING YOUR LIFE FOR IDEAS

**Learn how to find cool ideas for making awesome films in
your everyday life!**

Instead of mining for precious stones and metals to build castles and labyrinths, today we're going to learn how to mine your everyday life for juicy ideas for stories.

Get your Pickaxe ready!

*Print the activity pages at the end of this document and enjoy the rest on screen!

What you'll need:



A buddy for interviews

Something to record with (like a phone or camera)

Pen and paper



WE'RE TALKING ABOUT WHAT YOU DO EVERY WEEK, YOUR HOBBIES, STUFF YOU CARE ABOUT, INTERESTING PEOPLE YOU KNOW, OR MAYBE EVEN SOMETHING COOL OR WEIRD IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

Storytelling is all about sharing stories that are real and relatable.

Even if it is an alien space saga, the core of the story should be relatable. When you use stuff from your own life or your friend's life, it makes your stories way more interesting and meaningful.

Plus, it's a skill every awesome filmmaker or storyteller needs!

PART ONE: PARTNER INTERVIEWS (15-20 MINUTES)

- Pair up with a buddy and take turns interviewing each other. Ask about weekly activities, hobbies, people in their life, or recent experiences.
- Listen actively and take notes during the interview to capture interesting ideas or themes that emerge from your partner's life. Maybe their answers are all about their bug collection or their little brother or the All Blacks? These are themes in their life and show what could be important to them.

PART TWO: IDEA GENERATION (15 MINUTES)

- Take a look at your notes and identify 2-3 ideas that stand out or interest you about your partner. Are they convinced they've discovered a new species of worm? Or are they training to be the next big thing in mini golf? Look for stories or aspects of your partner's life that could make for an exciting and interesting short film.
- When selecting your ideas, ask yourself things like: "Is this relevant?" "Does it make me feel anything?" "Can I pull this idea off with the tools and resources available?"
- Don't forget to ask permission to make a story about your friends lived experience.

**PART THREE: PITCHING
(15 MINUTES)**

- Present your idea to the group and explain why you think it would make a great short film. Make sure you cover the key parts that you uncovered during your interview and what you think makes it stand out.
- Listen to the thoughts and ideas from the group. Be open to suggestions on how to improve the idea.
- Think about how you can work on some of the group's ideas (remember, not all of them will be good) to make your documentary idea even better.

▶ **WHAT COOL IDEAS DID YOU FIND DURING YOUR INTERVIEWS?**

▶ **WHAT SURPRISED YOU THE MOST ABOUT YOUR BUDDY'S LIFE?**

▶ **HOW DID THIS ACTIVITY HELP YOU COME UP WITH POTENTIAL SHORT FILM IDEAS?**

▶ **WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY NEXT TIME TO DIG EVEN DEEPER?**

**PART FOUR: DEVELOPMENT
(15 MINUTES)**

- Now that you have mined your partner's life for ideas and workshopped them with the group, it's time to hand the ideas back to the owner.
- Pick one of the ideas your partners has picked out for you and come up with these 4 elements.

1.Character

Who is the main character? What is the name?

2. Where is the film set?

You can tell a love story on mars or a space story in the bathtub. Get creative with your idea!

3. What happens?

Using the ideas discussed with the class and your partner come up with the beginning, middle, and end. If this feels hard, no worries! We have a module on this.

4. What is the main conflict of the story?

Before diving into making a film about someone, it's crucial to get their green light first. We're all about respecting boundaries and ensuring everyone is comfortable with what we're putting out there. So, let's make sure we're getting the go-ahead from folks before we hit record

Congrats! You've completed the first step to writing a short film script! Not sure where to go next? Check out to DOFilm.co.nz/howto for tips and tricks and what to do next.