

The Dos and Don'ts of Writing an Original TV Pilot - Reading

(<http://masteringfilm.com/the-dos-and-donts-of-writing-an-original-tv-pilot/>)

Part 1

Fill in the gaps with the words from the box.

consistent stand out devices infinite introduce

Pilots Do's

Do find a **premise** that's fresh and original. Mimicking what's already on television will not make youin the writing crowd.

Do choose a premise that has story possibilities. Networks **crave** long-running series like *Law & Order* and *Friends*.

Do set up the series **franchise**. Your pilot script should act as a **blueprint** for the entire series. It shouldthe premise, characters and structure that will come into play on a weekly basis. Only use flashbacks, voiceovers, or other clever storytellingif you envision them in future episodes.

Do be sure your characters talk in distinct,voices. If a character speaks in slang he must always speak in slang.

Which highlighted words from the text mean:

- a) a right to sell a company's products in a particular area using the company's name
- b) an early plan or design that explains how something might be achieved
- c) an idea or theory on which a statement or action is based
- d) to have a strong feeling of wanting something

Fill in the gaps with words a-d:

Many young children oftentheir parents' attention.

The experiment is based on the that children learn faster than adults.

He opened a restaurant but has to pay fees for the

The Ministry is working on aon how to reform the education system.

Part 2

Use the words in brackets to form a word that fits in the space in the same line

Pilot Don'ts

Don't hold back too much information. If you're thinking about **dropping a big bomb** in Season 5, episode 10, and then everyone will "get it", think again. When readers are (CONFUSION) by a lack of information in your pilot script, there won't be a season 1.

Don't make the pilot episode all about backstory. The characters should be in(MOVE) when we meet them, and backstories should emerge in natural, character-specific dialogue.

Don't write a pilot that will only be of interest to a(LIMIT) audience. **Tapping into** universal themes and future trends will (SURE) more viewers, which, for networks translates into more advertising dollars.

Don't be shy. In this racy age of television, bold and daring will take you a lot (FAR) than bland . Executives would much rather read an edgier sample that proves you have the to take chances and **push the envelope**.

Which highlighted expressions from the text mean:

- a)** to go further than the usual limits by doing something new, dangerous, etc
- b)** to announce shocking news
- c)** to manage to use something in a way that brings good results

Fill in the gaps with expressions a-c:

With this new product the company is trying tothe Asian market.

Maybe you should talk to your parents about your plans instead of juston them.

Some teachers really when they fraternise with their students outside of class.

What was so good about these TV pilots? - Listening

Fill in the gaps with words you hear.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqfZW3HYhys>

10. The X-Files

It showcases the partners'

9. 24

It throws the audience into

8. Mad Men

It has intelligentand retro

7. Prison Break

It combines an intriguing and thrilling

6. The Walking Dead

It has a cliffhanger

5. Game of Thrones

It was highly

It combines stunning and epicelements.

4. The Sopranos

It shows excellent, and.....

3. Twin Peaks

It is praised for its creation of andstorylines.

2. Breaking Bad

It introduces the audience to the world of the protagonist.

1. Lost

It's regarded one of the best pilots in the TV history due to its special andcast.