

Having your expectations well laid out and your goals clearly defined is the best way to start any endeavor. Therefore, for your first written assignment, write a 1-2 page paper detailing what you want out of the program, what you want to eventually do in the film industry, and how you plan on getting there. Be as detailed as possible. Be specific. This will allow us to help structure your education around your individual needs. No detail is too small.

I want the 'film connection' program to:

- 1) Equip me with the tools (in terms of cinematography, editing and writing) to become a film director
- 2) Connect me with people inside the industry in my area (Austin, Dallas, Houston) which will help me make films.

What I want to eventually do in the film industry:

I want to eventually be able to direct films for the silver screen or TV. How I plan to get there is going to evolve over time.

But as of now, I would like the film connection to help me with the objectives required to be a filmmaker: 1) Technical tools in terms of writing, editing, cinematography 2) Network with the correct people/resources. These are the two areas in which I'm lacking.

My strengths are: 1) My ability to work with people and resolve issues 2) My diverse sensibilities through life experiences 3) My ability to connect to anyone from any background 4) My ability to lead many cross-functional areas/teams 5) My ability to showcase my skills that I will pick up on the way and talk about them and demonstrate them 6) My ability to think in artistic terms and lay out the vision 7) My ability to think through in terms of logistics. I want to use my strengths and combine them with the tools that the 'film connection' will give me to advertise my skillset and myself in front of stakeholders who can help finance, distribute and exhibit films. I want to find an audience and I want to show them my films!

I am already working with Solarity Studios (Alex Kinter), my mentor, on some critical technical skills. I have worked with Alex on a shoot (although it was only for a few hours). I have learned some of the editing skills and the artistic choices that Alex makes during editing. I also am keenly observing how Alex works with his peers, technical staff and artists and am absorbing everything that I can at this stage. I'm looking forward to more such sessions, where I can pick up a lot of skills and technical knowledge.

To elaborate further on what I want out of the 'film connection' program in LA:

- 1) Connect me to resources in writing (which is similar to how they did with Alex in terms of shooting/editing/cinematography) . I believe this is already laid out in the program
- 2) Connect me up with key producers/personalities (especially Panelists) in Austin Film Festival in 2016. I would like to plan for this right away. Please note that the "Dallas Film Society" is closer to my location but I believe that the "Austin Film Festival" will be a better target
- 3) Help/guide me to properly submitting my short films to film festivals such (Austin, Dallas, Sundance? LA? NY? Other smaller festivals, perhaps?)
- 4) What are the dos/donts of properly getting noticed by the Panelists via short film submissions?
- 5) How can you help me network with a group of actors/actresses and possibly, technicians, that I might need to make my own short film in my locality?
- 6) In addition to helping me understand how to get face-time with stake-holders at local film festivals, what are the ways that are available to people like me (who are just starting out), to get more face-

time with TV network producers and major studio producers?

With the proper training from Alex, I believe I can build the skills, on a technical layer, to make a good film. I believe I need help from the school in LA, to help me network with the correct people to move on to a larger scale of audience for my films. Thank you for your time.

Take three ideas that you have for movies and write your own synopsis for each. This is a very important step towards ultimately deciding what the project that you're going to be working on throughout the program will be. Don't write a seven-page paper on each of our ideas. Make these synopses like the ones you read. Short, sweet, and to the point. Get in, describe what happens in one or two sentences, and get out. After you've completed this, we will assist you in choosing your strongest concept. We will also help you in rounding out your idea.

Three ideas

- 1) A revenge journey of an illegal immigrant from Mexico, in America, tracking his smuggler and his bosses and killing them in cold blood, for destroying his life
- 2) A top scientist in a project in religiously and spiritually conflicted about continuing with his research because of the potential impact on humanity; he comes out of it convinced, that it is not his duty to worry about humanity, but his duty, is to kill the current enemy with all the tools possesses
Note: This is Oppenheimer's internal struggle with the atom bomb on the Manhattan Project. But this can easily be applied to the current geo-political climate in our fight against terrorism; it could be a scientist or a politician
- 3) After repeated bouts of severe abuse from his partner, our protagonist reluctantly arms himself for his family's safety. At the next incident, he reluctantly/accidentally shoots his spouse in front of their children. The antagonist does not die but does something worse: he is bed-ridden for life. Our protagonist chooses to leave the vegetable as a rebellious move against the respect for the newly formed institution of marriage for gays. He takes his children with him.