

## Chapter 5 Essay

The responsibilities of an AD pre-production involve breaking down the script, and creating a schedule, a breakdown sheet for each scene, a one liner, and a chart for the days that certain cast members need to be on set. Breaking down the script first requires that the Assistant Director find the parts of the script that are going to require attention, such as areas that need props, special effects, etc. Next the AD must separate the script into 8ths of pages. Each page of a script should amount to around one minute of screen time. Finally, creating the schedule. The main priority of making the schedule is to create a guideline for the order that the AD plans on scheduling the special requirements for a scene, as well as the needed talent.

Essentially, the most important role of the Assistant Director during production is to make things run smoothly for the crew and the Director. While on set, the AD must be very firm and establish their authority. The AD is the voice that commands the crew in order to get things done. The AD needs to be approachable, but not let themselves get taken advantage of. Blocking needs to be set in stone and the cast is aware of their places on the scene. Then allow for the techs to set up the lighting of the scene. The Assistant Director should run a few rehearsals to get an idea of the flow of the scene and get a perspective on the cast members understanding and practice the dolly placements. Now to call for a screen roll, the AD needs to make sure to be very assertive and to use the walkie. The AD must be very clear when calling for role and repeat himself in the walkie so that everyone can understand and the same goes for when calling cut. Remember, the AD is to be in demand and is the voice on the set. The

AD must have control over all the crew so that that people aren't all over the place. However, the AD doesn't want to be too pushy. The AD wants a happy crew so be aware when the crew needs a lunch break. Communication is key for the AD, having knowledge of the needs of the cast and crew and being able to assist to those needs. Overall the AD needs to remain professional and compassionate, assertive and accessible, it's all about keeping a nice balance.

Overall, the skills necessary for an AD are managing time, organizing, solving problems, and communicating. All of these traits are imperative for the production to be successful. Without time management the schedule wouldn't work accordingly, and there would be a risks in budget costs and the emotional state of the casts and crew would be pushed. An Assistant Director should know how long certain scene should take and be able to accept and asses setbacks. Managing others time is an extreme priority. Although the AD is an assistant the Director needs the AD to keep the schedule on time and tell the Director and lighting team when they need to continue moving forward. Organization is simple to understand the more organize an AD is the more smooth everything will run. When solving a problem, the AD is the one who needs to stay calm and figure out a solution while keeping with the crew and the Director under control. Lastly, communicating with confidence. The AD needs to be heard, and the crew should have no doubt in the Assistant's ability. In conclusion, the AD holds a lot of responsibility and skill. An AD is single handedly one of the most essential roles in the successfulness of a production.