

## Pilot Pitch Bible

The bible that you present with your pilot script is similar to the list of elements that you present when you pitch a story verbally, with a few changes. You don't need to synopsise the pilot if you're presenting the pilot script. And the order might change a little. Others may differ in the order of what's below, but few differ in the content. Here's the list, in order:

### 1. Log lines

A good log line doesn't tell us your story: a good log line teases us with just enough information about your story to make us think we know what it's about, and it makes us want to know more. Write two: one for your pilot, and one for your series.

### 2. Your Teaser. (This is optional. Some studios may ask for a written version of your Teaser in your bible. Many don't. But it's good to have. )

### 3. Your world, tone, and perhaps a bit about theme.

This doesn't need to be detailed. A fourth of a page should do.

What's the world your pilot exists in? Present day? Outer space? 17<sup>th</sup> Century Scotland? Show it to us.

What's the tone? Grim? Grim but funny? Funny but grim from time to time? Show us, in this paragraph.

If you have a theme, consider adding it here as well.

### 4. Character descriptions.

Give them to us in order of importance, the most important character(s) first. Consider writing a fourth of page (some bibles do more, but keep this short for your pitch bible) on each of your main characters, less on the rest of those we need to know about.

Only the first sentence or two will be character description. The rest will be backstory, which is listed below. Your pilot script may include a short version of your description within the pages of the pilot script itself. (Note that backstory is not character description. You may choose to mix them together, but be sure that you have plenty of both.)

### 5. Your backstory.

How did this character get here? What happened? Which of your characters used to be lovers/best friends/college roommates? Which of them holds a grudge? How else are their lives entangled? The entanglements are important. They're the fodder for much of the drama that will proceed from your pilot.

### 6. Your Pilot

If you're submitting a pitch bible without also submitting the pilot, you'll need a summary of the plot of the pilot. Also, show how the pilot is like a typical episode of

your series.

7. **An explanation of where the first three seasons are going.**

Or, in other words, your season arcs. These don't need to be long, or detailed. All three of these, plus item 8 below, should fit on half a page.

8. **An explanation of where the series is going.**

Or, in other words, your series arc. Again, not too detailed. This is almost always more about theme than about plot.

9. **Six half-page synopses of the next six episodes you envision.**

Some writers I know do ten. Some, I understand, do twelve after the pilot, or the magic 13. But six should be good. Show us what happens after your pilot airs. Anyone reading your pilot with a serious interest is going to want to know that you know not only where you're going (your series arc), but how you'll get there (these sample episodes).