

A Long Way From the Acropolis

A Screenplay Proposal

by Liam Chamberlin

Timeline:

I plan to write this screenplay in three stages over the course of **6 weeks**.

1- Outline (Week 1) **2- Write** (Weeks 2-5) **3- Rewrite/Polish** (Week 6)

The first step is perhaps the most crucial, because without a sound outline, a screenplay is unlikely to succeed. The story needs to work conceptually before it can work on the page. I have already begun outlining the story into the seven-point structure that is taught by Professor Chitlik. The points of this structure are found in almost any successful story, and they are crucial to every feature film. By this standard, I know I have a viable story, but before I am ready to begin the writing process, I first want to fit my story to the more rigorous 44-point plot structure that was taught to me by Professor Michelle Amor. This process will occupy the first few days of my work. The 44 point structure is essentially a guide to every scene in your movie, so every detail is determined before you sit down to write the first word.

With a 44-point outline I will be able to begin the writing process. I estimate that it will take me four to five weeks to complete a 90 page draft of the screenplay, with an additional week to polish and edit. The writing process can be challenging and slow, but with the guidance of my mentor I will be able to overcome any obstacles in the story or research. I will set a goal to write 3-5 pages a day, which puts me ahead of schedule to finish the draft. This accounts for any writing blocks I may encounter.

The final stage of the process is the polish, which focuses on tightening, trimming, and editing the script into a concise and presentable product. I am in the process of polishing another feature script at the moment, so I can confidently approach the polish of *A Long Way from the Acropolis* with successful past experience. Professor Chitlik will be a great resource in this portion of the projection because he has a keen eye for detail. I plan to have other peers proof-read my work as well, so I can be sure it is up to standard and in professional order. When the draft is complete, I will be able to present it to other professionals and feature it in my portfolio, as well as showcase it in academic settings.

Budget:

I can write a screenplay from almost anywhere in the world. My first feature script was written in Budapest on shoddy cafe wifi. As long as I have enough internet connection to read online

libraries and scholarly sources, I can conduct my research. The screenplay is written on local software from my computer. Essentially, this means that the writing process is budget-free.

However, if I do carry out this project I will be sacrificing valuable time that I could use to save up for my senior year of college. Therefore, the opportunity cost of this project is fairly high. The extortionate cost of living in L.A. makes it very difficult for me to stay and pursue academic opportunities or unpaid internships during my summers. That's why I am applying for additional funding.

To follow the timeline I have laid out above, I will need to work **20 hours per week for 6 weeks** to complete this script. At the L.A. minimum wage of \$14.25/hr. (the wage I would forgo for this research opportunity), that comes out to **\$1710.00** of labor for the whole research project. There are no other expenses.

Expected Results:

I expect to have a completed screenplay by the end of this process, rich in comedy, heart, and modern commentary. When it is polished, I will need to find a means to share and disseminate my work. There are countless online resources, festivals, and contests to which I could submit the script, as well as academic conferences and research events on and off campus. In addition, I plan to use my undergraduate network to promote my writing and career in the film industry after graduation. During my four years, I have honed the communication skills that are necessary to get a foot in the door with writers, producers, and professionals who are capable of launching my career.

Conclusion:

This story has been burning in me for a long time. I see this summer as the perfect opportunity to finally put it down on the page. I am asking for financial assistance so that I may pursue the project with my undivided attention. While I do not anticipate it to be an easy process, I am confident that I have the skills and talent to synthesize my research into an educational and thought provoking screenplay. *A Long Way from the Acropolis* will be a resource that allows the general public to access a fascinating time in history and all of its political implications, many of which are still relevant in today's society.