

## **FAQ: FRANTICALLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

We know writers love to procrastinate! So, if you are waiting until the last minute to enter your script, take some time to review our most “Frantically Asked Questions” from entrants. Planning ahead might be hard for a procrastinator but seriously, don’t put this off!

### **#1: My script doesn’t fall within your required page length. Will I be disqualified?**

The page length mentioned in our rules is more of a recommendation. We rarely disqualify a script based on page length alone. We recommend feature scripts be between 90 and 120 pages, 4-40 pages for short scripts, and teleplays should be the appropriate length depending on the format – approximately 22-40 pages for sitcoms and 45-70 pages for one-hour shows. If you’re slightly under or over in page count, you should be fine but keep in mind that successful scripts tend to fall within those parameters.

### **#2: I didn’t receive a confirmation e-mail for my online submission. Did you receive it?**

As long as you paid through PayPal and have an e-mail receipt, then we have received your online entry form, script PDF, and payment. A separate e-mail confirmation from AFF is sent out within at least 5 business days.

### **#3: I have a drama-comedy feature or drama-comedy pilot – which category should I enter in?**

This is, of course, entirely up to you to decide but you want to make sure you choose the category that best represents the genre of your story. There’s a certain level of expectation with the comedy genre, as in, will the script make a reader laugh out loud? If the main emphasis in the story is humor, it’s clear you should enter in Comedy. If the main emphasis is on a more serious, emotional journey for your characters (even with some comedic moments), you should enter in Drama. Every genre, even comedy, has some kind of dramatic element but not every drama has comedic elements. Therefore, when in doubt, enter in the Drama category.

### **#4: Who are your readers and judges?**

In the early rounds of the competition, scripts are reviewed by our team of readers which consist of writers, filmmakers, producers, industry professionals, and lovers of story. All of them are people closely affiliated with AFF or at least recommended by trusted friends of the festival. All readers are first carefully screened before participating. At the Semifinalist level, judges consist of only established producers, agents, and managers. At the Finalist level, judges include only established writers to select each of our winners.

### **#5: Will I receive feedback on my script?**

YES! We are one of the few competitions that provide feedback for FREE to all entrants. All entrants are guaranteed to receive a brief summary of their scripts’ notes. Second Rounders and above will receive further Reader Comments based on specific criteria. All feedback will be sent via e-mail after the festival concludes no later than early December. Keep in mind these are just general comments and observations from your assigned reader. If you would like more comprehensive and detailed feedback, try our Coverage Program. It operated year-round and provides very thorough and constructive coverage notes. For more information about our Coverage Program, click [here](#).

### **#6: How many entries do you receive?**

We now receive over 9000 scripts across all categories. That number may seem daunting (and it certainly is) but it depends on the category you enter in. The Drama Feature category is by far the most competitive category with well-over 3000 submissions followed by the Drama Pilot category with over 1500 submissions. The Comedy Feature category receives over 1200 submissions and the Comedy Pilot category receives over 1000 submissions. The least competitive categories are the TV Spec categories with over 200 for Drama specs and over 200 for Comedy specs. Categories for new media formats like our Scripted Digital Series Competition and Fiction Podcast Competition also have less competition so consider entering a script in those to increase your chances of advancing or even winning.

For the full listing of our Frequently/Frantically Asked Questions, click [here](#)

Got any other specific questions for us? Feel free to reach out to us at [screenplay@austinfilmfestival.com](mailto:screenplay@austinfilmfestival.com)

