

Ideas from *Beat Sheet Central*:  
A Blog by Nicholas Jarecki

<http://www.beatsheetcentral.com/>

Jarecki says, “Often when I’m writing a film or teleplay, I like to go back and look at movies and TV shows in similar genres and see how they are constructed....Many writers work from something alternatively called a step outline, treatment, or beat sheet. I like beat sheet. The sheet describes the entire movie from start to finish, and breaks it into beats, or scenes. These are the key components that form the script.”

He is, in his online blog, collecting beat sheets contributed by readers. Here is what he thinks goes into a “proper beat sheet:”

- Scenes numbered for easy reference
- Every scene of the film, stating pretty fully what happens in that scene.
- Everything concise and readable.

He also says: “ I do not believe that there is a formula for creating commercially or critically successful films...you’d just see the same movie over and over” and studios would never buy movies on spec, nor would there be indie films.

One sample is a beat sheet for *Michael Clayton*:

<http://www.beatsheetcentral.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/michael-clayton-2007-beat-sheet.pdf>.