

Video: 10 Screenwriting Tips from Christopher Nolan

[Scott Myers](#)

The writer-director of *Memento*, *The Dark Knight*, *Inception*, *Dunkirk*, and *Tenet* shares 10 screenwriting tips.



The outfit Outstanding Screenplays put together this terrific compendium of film clips from several interviews with writer-director Christopher Nolan.

The 10 tips:

Tip 1—[0:42](#) — Do something you believe in, rather than what other people want.

Tip 2—[2:25](#) — Figure out what is interesting to you and present it in a way that it will be interesting to the audience.

Tip 3—[3:08](#) — Add multiple layers.

Tip 4—[4:17](#) — Approach structure mathematically with diagrams.

Tip 5—[5:54](#) — Start by yourself as soon as you can, grow your projects and never stop.

Tip 6—[6:46](#) — Make a film you would want to see yourself.

Tip 7—[7:13](#) — Learn a little bit of all aspects of filmmaking.

Tip 8—[9:18](#) — Write about what inspires you.

Tip 9—[10:12](#) — Have a new project ready for when you are asked what you want to do next.

Tip 10—[11:14](#) — Take your favorite genre, bring new elements to it and turn it on its head.

Extra Tip — [12:18](#) — Don't be afraid and write the most exciting, the most unexpected story you can think of.

Some sage advice including this down-to-earth one: *Have a new project ready for when you are asked what you want to do next.* If you have a meeting in Hollywood based on a script you've written, the first words out of their mouth are, "Loved it!" The second thing they say: "What else you got?"

If you don't have another project ready to go... that will be a **very** short meeting.

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