

a sol guide to dialog

1. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO EXPRESS

Take detailed notes of what it is you want to express with this dialog.

Both the information that needs to be expressed directly, and the information you want to express about the characters, the state they're in, how they're feeling and their relationships.

Refer to these notes during the process.

2. BECOME AWARE OF VISUAL CUES

There is always context. What do the surroundings and actions of characters already explain?

Similarly, become aware of your medium: What cues are best expressed in your medium?

Write out both these visual cues, as well as making notes of what these cues lead up to / refer to.

3. POLISH

Become aware of your characters. Make sure characters sound different from one another. Especially, if they are in the same scene. Refer to the way they talk, how they move.

Read the lines aloud to yourself. Notice how you act them out, implement that into your writing.

4. BE AWARE OF THE LAYERS

Use these layers carefully and with awareness.

Surface	Actual spoken words.
Pie Filling	Characters True Feelings and Intentions
Foundation	Setting, visuals, acting, etc. This depends on what the medium used is. What does your medium tell without the dialog? Consider the outside information as the foundation upon which you build the dialog.

