

TV Pilot Kit

From The Writers Store

Ever fantasized about creating your own TV show? Stop dreaming & start writing! The TV Pilot Kit is the perfect launching pad for writing a professional TV Pilot proposal.

This kit includes elements that guide you through your Pilot Proposal, including logline, plot, and acts, along with a Character Map for determining your cast and their motivations. Plus, you'll find illustrated examples using the pilot of *How I Met Your Mother*.

Once you're finished, you can confirm with an expert that your completed Kit is ready to compete in the Industry via our [TV Pilot Kit Development Notes](#). With this professional service, you get a written analysis on your proposal's viability, which is that the delicate balance of a set-up, payoff, and ongoing plot lines and character arcs.

Plus, your completed TV Pilot Kit proposals can be used to enter the next round of [The Industry Insider TV Writing Contest](#), where you can win unparalleled Industry experience, a meeting with an esteemed executive producer, and much more.

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Industry Insider TV Pilot Proposal

1-SERIES LOGLINE

2- WRITE BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS FOR EACH OF YOUR MAIN CHARACTERS

3. USE THE CHARACTER MAP TO WRITE BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS DETAILING HOW EACH CHARACTER FEELS ABOUT THE OTHER CHARACTERS

4. WRITE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PLOTS IN THE PILOT EPISODE

4a. A PLOT

4b. B PLOT

4c. C PLOT, ETC. (IF APPLICABLE)

5. WRITE A SUMMARY (500 WORDS OR LESS) OF EACH ACT IN THE PILOT

6. WRITE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ARC WITHIN THE PILOT EPISODE

6a. THE ARC WITHIN THE FIRST SEASON

6b. THE ARC WITHIN THE WHOLE SERIES

7. DESCRIBE HOW THIS SHOW WILL GENERATE A HUNDRED EPISODES OR MORE

Character Map

Write brief descriptions detailing how each of your characters feels about the others. You only need to list the key characters in your pilot. Consider also listing how the characters feel about themselves.

	Character 2	What does Character 1 think of Character 2?
	Character 3	What does Character 1 think of Character 3?
	Character 4	What does Character 1 think of Character 4?
Character 1	Character 5	What does Character 1 think of Character 5?
	Character 6	What does Character 1 think of Character 6?
	Character 7	What does Character 1 think of Character 7?
	Character 8	What does Character 1 think of Character 8?

	Character 1	What does Character 2 think of Character 1?
	Character 3	What does Character 2 think of Character 3?
	Character 4	What does Character 2 think of Character 4?
Character 2	Character 5	What does Character 2 think of Character 5?
	Character 6	What does Character 2 think of Character 6?
	Character 7	What does Character 2 think of Character 7?
	Character 8	What does Character 2 think of Character 8?

	Character 1	What does Character 3 think of Character 1?
	Character 2	What does Character 3 think of Character 2?
	Character 4	What does Character 3 think of Character 4?
Character 3	Character 5	What does Character 3 think of Character 5?
	Character 6	What does Character 3 think of Character 6?

Character 7	What does Character 3 think of Character 7?
Character 8	What does Character 3 think of Character 8?

Character 1	What does Character 4 think of Character 1?
Character 2	What does Character 4 think of Character 2?
Character 3	What does Character 4 think of Character 3?
Character 4	Character 5 What does Character 4 think of Character 5?
Character 6	What does Character 4 think of Character 6?
Character 7	What does Character 4 think of Character 7?
Character 8	What does Character 4 think of Character 8?

Character 1	What does Character 5 think of Character 1?
Character 2	What does Character 5 think of Character 2?
Character 3	What does Character 5 think of Character 3?
Character 5	Character 4 What does Character 5 think of Character 4?
Character 6	What does Character 5 think of Character 6?
Character 7	What does Character 5 think of Character 7?
Character 8	What does Character 5 think of Character 8?

Character 1	What does Character 6 think of Character 1?
Character 2	What does Character 6 think of Character 2?
Character 3	What does Character 6 think of Character 3?
Character 6	Character 4 What does Character 6 think of Character 4?
Character 5	What does Character 6 think of Character 5?

Character 7	What does Character 6 think of Character 7?
Character 8	What does Character 6 think of Character 8?

	Character 1	What does Character 7 think of Character 1?
	Character 2	What does Character 7 think of Character 2?
	Character 3	What does Character 7 think of Character 3?
Character 7	Character 4	What does Character 7 think of Character 4?
	Character 5	What does Character 7 think of Character 5?
	Character 6	What does Character 7 think of Character 6?
	Character 8	What does Character 7 think of Character 8?

	Character 1	What does Character 8 think of Character 1?
	Character 2	What does Character 8 think of Character 2?
	Character 3	What does Character 8 think of Character 3?
Character 8	Character 4	What does Character 8 think of Character 4?
	Character 5	What does Character 8 think of Character 5?
	Character 6	What does Character 8 think of Character 6?
	Character 7	What does Character 8 think of Character 7?

	Leonard	What does Sheldon think of Leonard?
	Penny	What does Sheldon think of Penny?
	Howard	What does Sheldon think of Howard?
Sheldon	Rajesh	What does Sheldon think of Rajesh?
	Amy	What does Sheldon think of Amy?
	Bernadette	What does Sheldon think of Bernadette?

Industry Insider TV Pilot Proposal

HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER

1-SERIES LOGLINE

Through a series of flashbacks, Ted Mosby tells his children the (very long) story of how he met their mother and the shenanigans that he and his four best friends had to go through in Manhattan in order to lead him to the love of his life.

2- WRITE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION FOR EACH OF YOUR MAIN CHARACTERS

Ted Mosby - The heart and lead of this ensemble cast. He is an architect who thinks of himself as an intellectual. He is on a quest to find "the one," and while he is happy for his friends who are luckier in love than he is, he can't help feeling jealous that it's taking him so long to find the love of his life.

Marshall Eriksen - Ted's best friend from college. Marshall is an environmental lawyer and all-around stand-up guy with Midwest values. Lily Aldrin is the only woman he has ever been with and he is perfectly fine with that. Ted wishes he was so lucky to have met the one his first time at bat.

Lily Aldrin - A kindergarten teacher and aspiring actress. She has been friends with Ted and dating Marshall since freshman year of college. She is always ready to put her friends in their places, give sage advice and resolve conflicts with some tough love.

Robin Scherbatsky - News reporter from Canada, she puts her work ambitions ahead of relationships. She is introduced to the group when Ted falls for her. She is beautiful, but can act like one of the dudes, quoting movies, drinking scotch, smoking cigars and being reserved about commitment to relationships.

Barney Stinson - A womanizer who works for the man. Barney spends his days coming up with cons to get women to sleep with him. We forgive his antics because he was abandoned as a child and has the redeeming quality of being a fiercely loyal friend.

3. WRITE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION DETAILING HOW EACH CHARACTER FEELS ABOUT THE OTHERS

(Use attached Character Relationship Map)

4. WRITE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PLOT IN THE PILOT EPISODE

A PLOT:

Thrilled to hear his two best friends are getting engaged, Ted sets out to find the woman of his dreams (despite Barney's wishes) and immediately finds everything he is looking for in an aspiring news reporter named Robin.

B PLOT:

Marshall sets out to make an amazing proposal to his girlfriend of 9 years, Lily.

C PLOT, ETC. (IF APPLICABLE)

5. WRITE A SUMMARY OF EACH ACT IN THE PILOT (No more than 500 words per Act)

Act 1

A man tells his kids to sit down. He is going to tell them the story of how he met their mother.

Flashback to:

Ted and Marshall practice how Marshall is going to propose to Lily.

Ted meets up with Barney at the bar and laments how he wants to get married and settle down. Barney tries to talk him out of it by encouraging him to just meet (and use) women. Marshall proposes to Lily, then pops a champagne bottle and the cork hits her in the eye. Ted lays eyes on "the one."

Act 2

Ted meets "the one", Robin. Marshall takes Lily to the hospital. Ted and Robin go on a date and introduce us to the "olive theory," which is a way to judge whether a couple is meant to be, created by Marshall and Lily. Robin has to leave the date early. Marshall, Lily and Barney discuss how Ted should've kissed Robin at the end of the date. Ted decides he is going to do something drastic. He steals the blue horn from where he and Robin went on their date.

Act 3

Ted shows up at Robin's door with the blue horn. Robin, interested, invites him in and pours him a drink. Barney tries to talk Marshall out of marrying Lily. He exposes that the olive theory is just a big lie. Ted tells Robin he is in love with her. She freaks out and their nice night comes crashing down. Marshall admits he is scared to get married but he loves Lily more. He tells Lily the olive theory has been a lie. Ted leaves Robin's and tells her that he is tired of being single.

He'd make a great husband and father. Once again, Ted misses the opportunity to kiss Robin. Show ends with him saying to his kids," and that's how I met your Aunt Robin."

6. WRITE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ARC SHOWN WITHIN THE PILOT EPISODE

Ted goes from having no love interest prospects to thinking he found the one.

Marshall and Lily get engaged.

Barney works against the feeling that he is losing his friends to settling down.

6a. THE ARC WITHIN THE FIRST SEASON

Ted pursues Robin and gets her at the end of the season.

Marshall and Lily break off their engagement.

Barney proves that he is a good guy and a good friend, not just a slime ball.

6b. THE ARC WITHIN THE WHOLE SERIES

Ted will eventually meet the mother of his children.

Lily and Marshall will work through the issues that come with love, marriage and children.

Barney and Robin will overcome their fears associated with settling down and getting married.

7. WHY DO YOU BELIEVE THIS SHOW COULD HAVE THE LEGS TO GENERATE A HUNDRED EPISODES?

The show focuses on five friends at very different places in their lives. Lily and Marshall have found each other and are a unit. Ted wants desperately to settle down and become a unit. And Barney and Robin are terrified of the idea of settling down. The constant contrast and conflict of five friends coming at life from very different angles will give plenty of story lines to keep generating shows for many seasons.

Character Map

How I Met Your Mother

Write brief descriptions detailing how each of your characters feels about the others. You only need to list the key characters in your pilot. Consider also listing how the characters feel about themselves.

	Marshall	Best friend. Envious that Marshall married his first real girlfriend.
	Lily	Other best friend. Great for advice, especially with women.
	Barney	Good friend. Thinks he's ridiculous but funny with his womanizing ways.
Ted	Robin	In love with her, but can't date because she doesn't want marriage or kids.
	Ted	Classic nice guy that finishes last. Seeking the love his friends have.

	Ted	Best friend. Makes classic and constant dating mistakes.
	Lily	His soul mate. She's sweet and raunchy. Caring and hypersexual.
	Barney	Can't relate to womanizing ways but is entertained.
Marshall	Robin	Pretty and funny, but doesn't always like her presence because it hurts Ted.
	Marshall	Lucky guy, with a law career, great friends and married his first girl friend.

	Ted	Best friend. Can be a lost puppy that needs tough love.
	Marshall	Soul mate. The softer side of the relationship. She can control it.
	Barney	Has limited tolerance for his crass, but she sees his deeper side.
Lily	Robin	Female friend. Thinks she's great, but wrong for Ted.

	Lily	Kindergarten teacher who is as sweet as she is bad ass.

	Ted	Best friend (though Ted disagrees). In desperate need of his advice.
	Marshall	Throwing his life away by settling down.
	Lily	Gives him real life advice. Confidante. She's stealing away his friend.
Barney	Robin	Beautiful with the same commitment phobias he has.
	Barney	Lives the sweet life. Only relationships he needs are friends.

	Ted	Great guy. Great catch. Wants different things.
	Marshall	Super nice guy. Lectures her about Ted.
	Lily	Honest girl friend. Has a different approach to life.
Robin	Barney	Shares his views on dating, drinking, marriage and most things.
	Robin	Super ambitious. A little conflicted on what she truly wants in life.