**A Brief Overview of Spec Scripts**

Entrepreneur Graham Rickenbaker lives and works in New York City, where he runs a personal training business and engages in other career pursuits, including venturing into the entertainment industry. When not establishing and running fitness programs for executives, Graham Rickenbaker develops a spec script for a cable program on supernatural occurrences.

[Spec (speculation) scripts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spec_script) are original and often unpublished and uncommissioned screenplays that showcase a writer’s talent and helps him or her draw attention from prospective producers, studios, and agents. Spec scripts primarily serve as a calling card and portfolio piece for television and movie writers, especially those trying to break into the industry. However, some spec scripts are made into programs. Past successful and award-winning spec scripts include Thelma & Louise, written by Callie Khouri, and American Beauty, written by Alan Ball.

Creating quality spec scripts often requires a formulaic and step-by-step approach that begins with determining what kind of genres (i.e. comedy, drama, science fiction, etc.) the writer wants to create materials for. From there, new spec script writers often research their favorite genres and shows to identify programs with “buzzworthy” appeal that will generate attention before studying the general formats of these programs. From there, they begin writing, then gather feedback, make revisions, and repeat the development process.