Preparing a Director’s Treatment

A director’s treatment is NOT a shot list. The director is the central decision maker in a production and his/her treatment covers what s/he plans to do. It goes into detail of the look they're going for, how they hope the sound design to play out, what kind of music they wish to use, what kind of actors they want to cast, locations, pacing, production design, time period, costuming, etc, etc. Everything that is part of the director's vision should be included in the treatment, including the following.

**Concept**

What do you understand the central theme and conflict of this story to be?

**The Look**

How will the film *look* stylistically (lighting, cinematography, color palette, era, period piece, etc). And how will you accomplish that. Feel free to include photographs or links to similar films/videos

**Sound design**

Sparse? Thick? Music or no music? Recurring audio characters? Sound *mood*?

**Casting / Performance**

What kinds of actors, how will you work with them, to achieve what performance?

**Script Revisions**

If you could do rewrites, adding and/or removing elements from the script, what would they be?

**Write for Yourself**

It's a good idea to write a treatment as a way of developing the idea in your head. The more you think and prepare, then the more successful you will be. Write a treatment for yourself and treat it as if you're writing it for someone else. You won't regret it.

You may choose to include lots of photographs and a breakdown of how you see the locations looking, framing, lenses, colors, set decoration etc. It’s a way for executives and financiers to really understand how you are going to bring the story to the screen.