AN OUTLINE FOR PLAYSCRIPT ANALYSIS
From: *The Costume Designer’s Handbook* by Rosemary Ingham and Liz Covey; 2nd ed.; pgs. 15-33

I. Where are they?
   1. Exact geographical location.
   2. Note textural references and descriptions.

II. When are they?
   1. Day, month, year.
   2. Note special significance of date or season.

III. Who are they?
   1. Relationships and socio-economic levels.
   2. Under what government?
   3. In what religious environment?
   4. Believing what about ethical conduct, sex, marriage, family?

IV. What happened before the play begins?

V. What do the major characters think about their world?

VI. What is the function of each character?
   1. Who is the protagonist?
   2. Who is the antagonist?
   3. Which characters lead and which support?
   4. Identify the stereotypical characters.
   5. Identify the describe crowds.

VII. What is the Dialogue Mode?
   1. Naturalistic dialogue.
   2. Literary dialogue.
   3. Poetic dialogue.
   4. Sound and grammar.
   5. Ambiguity.

VIII. What is the play’s action?
   1. Note conflict, rising action, crisis, and resolution/dénouement

IX. What is the play’s theme?
An Outline for Play Analysis

Name of the play
Period of play
The playwright
Audience the play was written for
Genre: tragedy, comedy, drama, farce, melodrama
Playwright's purpose

Theme: major theme
   minor themes
Breakdown of play by acts and scenes
   Plot development
   Settings
   Characters
Character:
   Protagonist: character analysis
      motivation
      fatal flaw or comic weakness
      character evolvement/chages
   Antagonist
   Other characters: their function in relation to protagonist
      their function within structure of play

Plot: main action
   subplots
      Exposition-opening info
      initiating incident-what starts the ball rolling?

      Obstacles or conflicts
      Crisis
      Climax
      Resolution or denoument

Use of dramatic devices: irony, foreshadowing, suspense, surprises

Language: realistic, heroic, archaic, poetic, contemporary, ethnic, original

Setting: period/style
   scene changes or changes within single set as play progresses
   mood
   essential scenic elements
   symbolism