

Extra space is provided under each slide for your notes.

SLIDE ONE: INTRO

Reasons why readers skip over fight scenes:

Boring, unnecessary to the story, miss nothing of value or importance.

SLIDE TWO: WHAT A FIGHT SCENE IS NOT

What a fight scene is not:

- 1) A fight scene is not a tool to fix boring sections or add more drama and excitement to the story.
- 2) Fight scenes are also not play-by-play descriptions of the action.
- 3) Not an opportunity to head hop.

SLIDE THREE: WHY FIGHT

The two purposes of a fight scene are:

- 1) move the plot forward
- 2) reveal character

SLIDE FOUR: MOVING THE PLOT FORWARD

Fight scenes absolutely **MUST** affect the rest of the story.

Ask yourself:

- 1) How does this fight scene move my character closer to or farther from their story goal?
- 2) What obstacles does this fight create or eliminate?

SLIDES 5- 8: REVEALING CHARACTER

A fight scene should reveal the character of your protagonist, antagonist, and any observers.

- A. Throwing characters into a violent situation reveals who they are at their core and what type of fighter they are.
- B. Characters may learn something about themselves, and it may not be good.
- C. Fight scenes also reveal something about the observers.

Space for your own notes about the examples:

SLIDE 10: PREPPING

Determine:

1. Why are they fighting?
2. What are the stakes?
3. What will be revealed about the characters?
4. What is the tone?
5. What are the expectations of your genre?
6. How can you make each fight unique?

SLIDE 11 & 12: THE DETAILS

Some Rules to Follow:

1. Keep it to one Point of View.
2. See only what the POV character will see/notice.
3. Cut any unnecessary detail.
4. Keep your story in real-time.
5. Give characters physical and emotional reactions.
6. Use the five senses.
7. Don't use blow-by-blow descriptions.
8. Be true to the fighting style.
9. Make reactions and consequences realistic.
10. Use instinct over intellect.
11. Make your fight scene concise.

SLIDE 13: LET'S GET TECHNICAL

More rules to consider:

1. Use short sentences, but break them up with some longer passages.
2. Use punchy verbs.
3. Avoid adverbs/adjectives.
4. Mix action with dialogue.
5. White space is your friend!

6. Don't use flowery language.

SLIDE 14 & 15: THE NOBLE GUARDIAN

Excerpt is from page 225 of *The Noble Guardian* by Michelle Griep.

Space for notes:

SLIDE 16: WRAP UP

Visit www.crystalcaudill.com/kcwc2020 for:

- bonus documents, including the notes with answers filled in
- links to my social media
- sign up for my newsletter
- enter the drawing for a copy of *Fight Write* by Carla Hoch by June 28th

SLIDE 17: Q&A

Space for your notes: