

Pre-Production Tools

Rough Panel Layout

In this option you will actually sketch out the page, including the panels. We will use slightly larger paper so you will have a little room to work. Make sure to start lightly. Just use stick figures but try to pay close attention to the way you want to frame your shots.

* Begin with the words! If you choose option 1 or 2 make sure to write the words and then draw the bubble around them.

Captions: Usually square in shape. These show the passage of time or a change of setting. They can be used to set the mood or provide a little background information.

Dialog: No more than three balloons per panel. Keep the dialog simple (between 2 – 20 words, with a maximum of 40 per bubble). Dialog bubbles have pointed stems leading to the character while thoughts have little bubbles leading to the character.

Composition: This is how you frame the action in the panel. Look back at the comics for inspiration. Make sure to vary the way you frame the shots. Get the camera in close, down low, up high, tilt it, remember this is a comic book!

Explode: Don't be afraid to explode part the character out of the panel and splash it across the other panels on the page.



Sequencing: This is a fun technique that illustrations the action and give the feel of an animated sequence.