



## Issue 3

*This is the third in a series of bi-monthly emails that the Entertainment Industries Council, Inc. (EIC) thought might be of use to you when considering potential story lines. Cognizant of the criticism and scrutiny generated in Washington toward the creative community, we recently convened a Round Table of writers, directors, producers and other industry professionals to brainstorm alternative approaches to traditional "shoot-em-ups" -- approaches that are more aligned to what actually happens in the real world.*

*Hopefully, these depiction suggestions will not only be the impetus for fresh story ideas, but will imbue scripts with a realistic sense of gun violence consequences for people on both sides of a pointed weapon. They are designed to enhance the creative process -- not limit it.*

### DEPICTION IDEAS

Try incorporating statistics on gun usage into scripts by having appropriate characters, like law enforcement personnel, DA's and teachers cite them. For instance most people don't know that guns are more often used for suicide than homicide. (54% of gun deaths were suicides, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1999)

Consider highlighting the fact that teenagers often act impulsively and the presence of guns may increase the likelihood that a transient emotion may turn into a fatal event.

Consider having characters criminally charged for simply brandishing a firearm.

Try to emphasize that offenders get stiffer sentences if they use a gun in the commission of their crimes.

Consider pointing out the inadvertant injuries caused by bullets shot into the air by holiday celebrants. What goes up must come down, sometimes with lethal force.

### SOME RELEVANT INFORMATION

In 1994, nearly 90% of homicide victims 15 to 19 years were killed with a firearm. - National Summary of Injury Mortality Data, CDC, 1987-94

In the U.S. ten children less than 20 years old are killed by handguns everyday. -National Center for Health Statistics, 1996

**For more information on gun violence, safety, and injury prevention, please contact Entertainment Industries Council, Inc. at (703) 481-1418 or**

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