Film Production

FILM PRODUCTION is the process of making a film. All filming, screenwriting, directing, and editing must be done by the student producer. All entries must contain only original student produced images and footage. The student must be in control of the camera at all times, including when using a tripod, selfie stick, drone, or other film capturing devices. Entries created using presentation software such as PowerPoint and Google Slides are prohibited.

See Film Production FAQ on next page for more information.

Consider the following styles to portray your original work of fiction or nonfiction:
- Animation: Demonstrates motion by sequencing still objects or using student created computer graphics(Not AI).
- Narrative: Tells a fictional story developed by the student.
- Documentary: Presents facts and information.
- Experimental: Explores movement, light, and montage.
- Multimedia: Uses a combination of different contents (text, audio, still images, animation, etc.).

An explanation of the storyline and/or the significance of the film style might be a useful addition to the artist statement. Whether an entry displays use of technologies or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme, originality, and creativity. Software used to create an entry should only enhance and present the work, not provide the primary design.

Copyright: Entry may include public places, well-known products, trademarks, or certain other copyrighted material as long as that copyrighted material is nonessential to the subject matter of the piece and/or is a smaller element of a whole. Use of background music must be cited on the Student Entry Form.

Suggestions for Audio/Visual Quality:
- Use a tripod to hold the camera still.
- Make sure there is plenty of lighting, especially if shooting indoors.
- Turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.).
- Record a short test and listen to it. If needed, change the record volume or microphone location.
- Make sure the background music (if any) is audible on the recording.
- Allow for two seconds of silence at the beginning and end of your recording.

Submission Requirements:
- Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted.
- Each entry must be the original work of one student only.
- Student submitting the entry MUST be the cameraman.
- Video must not exceed 5 minutes in length and 1GB (one gigabyte) in file size.
- **Accepted file format is MP4.**
- Use of background music must be cited on the Student Entry Form.

How to Submit:
- All entries must be submitted online at www.utahpta.org/ref. All judging will be conducted online.

All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation
https://www.utahpta.org/reflections-rules-category-faqs

Film Production
Frequently Asked Questions

Can I use video clips I find on the internet or clips that are shared with me by the news or a business?
No. Entries may not include still shots of photographs or video clips taken or filmed by anyone other than the student producer.

Can I use short video clips that my grandma, friend, teacher, neighbor, or someone else filmed and shared with me?
No. Entries may not include still shots of photographs or video clips taken or filmed by anyone other than the student producer.

Can I use photographs taken by other people?
No. Entries may not include still shots of photographs or video clips taken or filmed by anyone other than the student producer. Entries may include live video footage(filmed by the entrant) that shows photographs taken by other people. Still shots do not count as live video footage. The only acceptable use of photos taken by someone other than the entrant is to use live video footage taken by the entrant.

If I use a tripod, can my mom or dad or somebody else turn the camera on and off for me?
No.

Can someone teach me how to use editing software?
Yes. It's fine for someone to teach you how to edit films. However, they should teach you using material that will not be part of your Reflections entry. All editing work for your entry must be done by you.

Can I make a slideshow?
Films that have a slideshow format are discouraged. You may not use presentation software. A film production entry should also not appear to be made using presentation software. It should include video and sound elements. If still photos are included as part of your film entry, they must be taken by you. Keep in mind that a film should consist of more than a show and tell of photographs. See question above about still photos for more info.

Do I have to be in my film?
No. Using other people in your film is a great way to make the filming process easier, since you are required to be in control of the camera without help from others.

I want to appear in my film. How do I do that without breaking the rules?
You may use a tripod, selfie-stick, drone, or other film capturing equipment. You still must be the person to turn the camera on and off. Other people may not hold the camera. Feel free to be creative, but be prepared to explain your process on the entry form.

Is AI art allowed? No. All entries must be the original work of one student only. We will not accept entries created by Artificial Intelligence programs.

Film Production
Tips by Savanna Navarro
National Award of Excellence Winner from Utah

- Start by brainstorming ideas using the theme. Try to incorporate the theme in creative ways that are inspiring to you.

- Make a storyboard/plan out shots you want to get and write your script so that you know from the start where the scene(s) will go, where you'll need to film, and when you need which actors.

- Learn how to use your camera and the different features on it.

- Search online for free editing software. Using an editing software is VERY important if you want a professional looking final product!!

- Play around with your video editing software to know what it does before you plan your storyboard. It will help you know what kinds of shots and transitions you can do.

- If you're filming outside, use a separate recorder for the vocal audio. I use the microphone app on my phone or a hand-held recorder for the audio for a cleaner sound, then I add that using the video software.

- Communicate to your actors before you begin shooting so they understand your vision.

- Get a lot of B-roll (cool and creative shots that you can mix into your main story to keep things interesting).

- Sometimes you have to use a tripod and be your own actor and that's fine. Just remember that it limits the movement in your shots if they're all filmed with a tripod, so you'll want to find ways to get more interesting shots to add in there to mix things up. You can also change the angle and height of the tripod to help with that.

- Search online for royalty-free music and sound effects. There's a lot of really great stuff out there that will make your film better! Just be sure to cite them on your entry form and in credits (if you make credits).

- And most of all, have FUN! Express yourself, and be proud of your work! Filmmaking is a great way to share what inspires you with the world!