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.

Reflect on the 2020-2021 Theme: I Will Change the World By...

See Film Production Frequently Asked Questions 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 computer-generated graphics.
- 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 formats include: 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.
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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 video footage (filmed by the entrant) that shows photographs taken by other people.

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.

Can I include video of photos that I did not take?
Yes. However, a film should be more than a show and tell of family photos.

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.