



Digital Cinema Production

2019 State SkillsUSA Contest Guidelines and Tool List

Contest Coordinator: Randy McWilson

Due to the short amount of time available, the contestants at the state contest will not be creating the video on-site. Videos will be filmed and edited ahead of time using the assigned theme. The video length is not to exceed **4 minutes**. For more details, please read below.

DIGITAL CINEMA PRODUCTION CONTEST DETAILS	
PURPOSE	To evaluate each contestant's preparation for employment and to recognize outstanding students for excellence and professionalism in the field of cinematography/short film production.
SCOPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teams of two students• Interview with Judges• 2.5 to 4 minute video that will be filmed and edited ahead of time using the assigned theme and additional creative elements.
SKILLS PERFORMANCE	<p>Each video should use the theme below and the additional creative elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A 2.5 to 4 minute video will be filmed and edited ahead of time using the following theme: "Dé-jà vu"• The project must contain the following components:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The project must include the following line of dialogue: "What if they find out?"2. The project must include the following prop: A calculator3. Entry must include a standard editor's countdown (3-2-1) to indicate the start of the video. Entry must include the words "The End" (can be graphics, written, verbal, etc.) at the conclusion of the video. This will ensure fairness in documenting the actual time length of each entry and clarify what content is to be judged.

Tool List:

- **Flash Drive** - each team must bring their completed video on a flash drive as an **MPEG4 (MP4) or WMV file**.
- **Five Copies of the Video Pre-Production Packet**, which may include (storyboard, script, shot list, casting, story outline, story synopsis, etc.). Examples included below.
- **Resume** – each contestant must submit a one-page typed resume.

Pre-Contest Meeting:

- Date: Friday, April 5th
- Time: 8:00 a.m.
- Location: Information Technology Center – Room 112 – State Tech (1)
- Details: Contestants will submit resumes, take the PDP test, and check to make sure their videos will play.

NOTE: Contestants should be prepared to wait for their presentation time outside of the contest location. Please plan accordingly – there will be downtime. Once every team has presented, the judges will deliberate and then provide general feedback to all contestants.

Contest:

- Date: Friday, April 5th
- Time: 9:00 a.m. until finished – usually around 4:00 p.m. (this could change).
- Location: Information Technology Center – Room 112 – State Tech (1)
- Details: Each team will present their video to the judges. Read below for more details.

1. **Interview with the Judges** – contestants should be prepared to answer a wide range of questions about their video (technical, theme, creative process, etc.). Before viewing the video, teams will pitch the video to the judges and briefly explain what they're about to see. After viewing the video, judges may ask the contestants to reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of the production. Questions from the judges will occur pre/post viewing each video and will include details from each team's pre-production packet.
2. **Video Presentation** – the judges will watch and evaluate the video.
3. **Judges Critique** – Once the video presentation has ended, the judges will offer immediate feedback to the contestants and answer limited questions from the contestants. This feedback is confidential between the judges and the individual teams. The feedback is intended to help the contestants better understand the strengths and weaknesses of their entry. It will be a general overview and is not intended to be an indication of scoring or placement in the contest.
4. **Team Debrief** - after all teams have presented their videos, the judges will invite all contestants back into the room and provide overall, general feedback about the videos.

Scoring

Teams will be scored in the following areas:

Category	Points
Pre-Production Packet	75 points
Script/Story (premise/plot/pacing/tone)	75 points
Accuracy (follow the theme and parameters)	100 points
Interview with the Judges (confidence/delivery/explanations)	50 points
Camera Technique (placement/movement/framing)	75 points
Camera Technical (balance/lighting/exposure)	75 points
Video Editing (transitions/accuracy/pace/flow)	75 points
Video Effects (quality enhancement/CG/coloring)	75 points
Sound Editing (quality/clarity/appropriate/synch)	75 points
Sound Effects (scene enhancement/music)	75 points
Acting (performance/character/effectiveness)	50 points
Overall Creativity (originality/concept/style)	100 points
Team PDP Score	100 points
TOTAL	1,000 points

VIDEO PRE-PRODUCTION

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project overview can be thought of as a planning meeting. The team should get together and talk about and plan each of the following elements.

Brief synopsis: A paragraph about what the video will be about.

Location: Where will you shoot? What access do you need? How will you get access?

Equipment: What equipment will you need and where will you get it?

People: Camera and sound operator, cast, editor, etc. Who will do each piece?

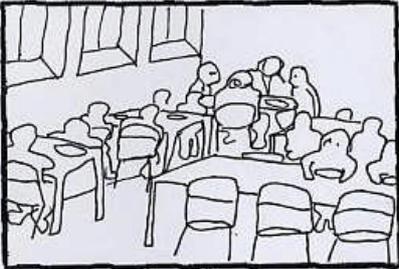
Date and time: What works for team members' schedules and the shoot location?

STORYBOARD

A storyboard helps show exactly how your video is going to be mapped out. It includes a drawn out image of each scene that you plan to shoot. It makes production easier because it helps you build your plan of action. It helps make sure everyone on the team is on the same page as far as the vision of the video. It also saves time in the long run because you can troubleshoot potential issues that might come up. Here's an example:

Long shot, Medium shot, Close up.

SHEET 1

		
<p>SHOT LS</p> <p>THE DINNER HALL. The children and teachers have started to eat their soup for lunch.</p>	<p>SHOT CU</p> <p>THE DINNER HALL. Anton sits silently looking at the empty table in front of him.</p>	<p>SHOT MS</p> <p>THE DINNER HALL. Eliana sees that he is hungry and carries over her soup for him to eat.</p>
		
<p>SHOT MS</p> <p>THE DINNER HALL. Mrs Holm notices what Eliana has done and gets up from the teachers' table.</p>	<p>SHOT CU</p> <p>THE DINNER HALL. Mrs Holm gives back Eliana's soup and says that she must sit there until it is eaten.</p>	<p>SHOT CU</p> <p>THE DINNER HALL. Eliana does not speak or move. She stares proudly ahead.</p>

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SHOT LIST

Developing a shot list is a great way to plan your video shoot. With it you will have a better idea of how many people you will need for your production and what equipment and props you will have to have to make it look on screen like it does in your head. Here's an example:

Location	Shot	Framing	Camera POV	Action/Dialogue
Roadside	1	Low Angle	Long	Car drives past
Car	2	High Angle Close Up	Below	Teen 1 holding a cigarette. 'We got a flat man' 'And I cant fix it'
Woods Ent	3	Panning Wide Angle	Above	Voice over from Teen 2 & 1. Teen 2: 'I got no bars' Teen 1: 'We can take the shortcut across the woods'
Woods Ent	4	Straight	Over the Shoulder	Teen 2: 'I'm not so sure man, iv heard things about Strangle Woods' Teen 1: 'That's ridiculous and who knows we may just make a night of it'
Woods Ent	4	Straight	Over the Shoulder	Smirk on Teen 1 and Zoom then Focus
Inside Woods	5	Low Shot Close Up	Straight	Teens walk on the rock one by one and Voice over from teen 1 'Rick Strangle! That old myth' BG laughter Fade out-Fade in Rick Strangle's walks over rock
Cave	6	Long Shot	Straight	Teen 1 and 2 argue then Teen 1 throws a cigarette Teen 2: 'I need a break dude' Teen 1: 'No breaks you hear me'
Cave	7	Low Angle Tilt Shot	Straight	Starts on cigarette then moves up to Villain clenching axe
Cave	8	High Angle Extreme Close Up	Below	Villain rotates axe in hand Slow Motion
Woods	9	Tracking Medium Shot	Above	Teen2: 'What's that?' Teen1 enters shot and says: 'Its nothing'
Tree	10	Medium Close Up	Straight	Teen 3 paces away from the camera as Rick Strangle emerges from the tree and raises his axe
Inside Cave	11	Close Up Trucking Shot	Straight	A lighter, lights the cave and the Villain is seen behind Teen 2 who is panting
Woods	12	Low Angle Close Up	Above	Axe drops onto the log