
Short Film

In Short Film, the skills measured are:

- The ability to create opening and closing titles, credits, and graphics that orient the viewer to the story
- The ability to visually develop a story with dialogue
- Camera, lighting, and sound use
- Editing, including scene length and flow
- The emotional and physical believability of the acting
- The filmmaker's use of film elements to create a successful product

Films can be no longer than 5 minutes plus 1 minute for credits. Films must be of original content and may be a collaboration among entrants.

- Short Film Execution: Entrant must demonstrate:
 - Proper use of title cards and credits within the timelimit
 - Properly executed camera angles and shot variation to enhance the storyline and finished product
 - Control over lighting exposures for clarity, storytelling, and a professional finished product
 - The ability to capture, record, and manipulate all audio aspects of your production
 - Controlled and manufactured editing choices that enhance the overall storytelling
 - The ability to complete a storyline that includes a clear arc (beginning, middle, and end)
- Short Film Requirements:
 - Music used in short films must be original, in the public domain, and/or properly credited.
 - If in the public domain or original, proper credit must be listed in the credits.
 - If it is not in the public domain or original, proper credit must be in the credits AND proof of payment for the rights to the music must be documented and shared with the adjudicators.
 - Material deemed by the adjudicator(s) to be obscene or disruptive may receive lower ratings or, in some extreme cases, may result in disqualification
 - If the film receives an overall superior rating at the chapter level, it may be uploaded to YouTube for national judging
 - Mark your video's YouTube privacy settings as either Public or Unlisted so the URL may be shared with judges (do not select Private or the judges will be unable to view the film)
 - The films will be viewed and critiqued by the judges prior to the International Thespian Festival
- The entrant does not have to make a presentation – the work should stand alone. Judges will supply feedback in the adjudication form online.

Short Animated Film

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Student(s):

School:

Selection:

Troupe:

SKILLS	4 Superior Above standard	3 Excellent At standard	2 Good Near standard	1 Fair Aspiring to standard	SCORE
Storytelling Visual development of story and dialogue; opening and closing titles, credits, graphics, and animations; conclusion.	Story is well organized, fully developed, and compelling; harmonizing visuals and dialogue seamlessly advance the narrative to enhance the connection to plot and character(s); choice of opening and closing titles, credits, graphics, and animations enhance and support film's message; ending succinctly resolves central conflict.	Story is well organized, and engaging; visuals and dialogue advance the narrative and the connection to the plot and character(s); choice of opening and closing titles, credits, graphics, and animations support the film's message; distinct conclusion.	Story is somewhat organized and mostly developed; visuals and dialogue moderately advance the narrative and the audience connection to the plot and character(s); choice of opening and closing titles, credits, graphics, and animations inconsistently support the film's message; conclusion is somewhat unclear .	Story is disorganized and/or difficult to follow; minimal use of visual cues and weak dialogue fail to advance the narrative or produce an audience connection; choice of opening and closing titles, credits, graphics, and animations do not support the film's message; conclusion is lacking or unclear .	
Comment:					
Cinematography and Audio Integrated use of camera, lighting, and sound.	Scenes and characters are skillfully framed and align with filmmaker's vision; lighting exposure and camera movement and angles are purposefully chosen to enhance performances and visually advance the story; music (if applicable) clearly underscores action and offers clues to character and plot; sound levels are consistently even and well metered.	Scenes and characters are appropriately framed and align with filmmaker's vision; lighting exposure and camera movement and angles are purposefully chosen to advance the story; music (if applicable) is appropriate to the story; sound levels are mostly even and well metered.	Inconsistent use of appropriate framing and lighting exposure do not align with filmmaker's vision; camera movement and angles sometimes advance the story visually; some music (if applicable) is appropriate to the story; sound level errors are evident .	Scenes and characters are not framed properly, are under or over exposed, and do not align with filmmaker's vision; scenes include multiple errors in camera movement and angles; music (if applicable) detracts from rather than supports the story; sound levels are inconsistent .	
Comment:					
Editing Editing skills; scene length and flow.	Purposeful continuity in editing produces well-composed transitions that enhance scene flow, audience engagement, and narrative; scene length and flow purposefully and effectively lead audience from one focal point to another while consistently maintaining the physical and spatial relationship of narrative.	Continuity in editing produces composed transitions that enhance scene flow, audience engagement, and narrative; scene length and flow effectively lead audience from one focal point to another while consistently maintaining the physical and spatial relationship of narrative.	Changing continuity in editing produces transitions that sometimes disrupt scene flow, audience engagement, and narrative; scene length and flow sometimes lead audience from one focal point to another yet seldom maintain the physical and spatial relationship of narrative.	Discontinuity in editing does not produce well-composed transitions that enhance scene flow, audience engagement, and narrative; scene length and flow do not lead audience from one focal point to another, and does not maintain the physical and spatial relationship of the narrative.	
Comment:					

Voice Acting and Animation Techniques Believability and compatibility of voice and animation; animation style and choices.	Character voices and animation (movements, actions, gestures, and expressions) are consistently believable and work in unison to create character ; strong and consistent animation choices are reflected through an original art style that helps build a unique animated world for viewer.	Character voices and animation (movements, actions, gestures, and expressions) are believable and mostly work in unison to create character ; consistent animation choices are reflected through an original art style that helps build a unique animated world for viewer.	Character voices and animation (movements, actions, gestures, and expressions) are sometimes believable and work in unison to create character ; animation choices are occasionally reflected through an art style that helps build a unique animated world for viewer.	Character voices and animation (movements, actions, gestures, and expressions) are rarely believable and do not connect well with each other; strong animation choices are rarely evident, and the art style does not help build a unique animated world for viewer.	
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Comment:

Filmmaker's Vision Use of film elements to create a successful final product.	Filmmaker conveyed a clear vision and consistently adhered to rules established for the film; all elements worked together to create an impactful, engaging film with a powerful voice.	Filmmaker conveyed a mostly clear vision and frequently adhered to the rules established for the film; most elements worked together to create an engaging film.	Filmmaker attempted to convey a clear vision and inconsistently adhered to the rules established for the film; few elements worked together to create an engaging film.	Filmmaker failed to convey a clear vision and did not adhere to the rules established for the film; elements did not work together to create an engaging film.	
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Comment:

RATING (Please circle)	4 Superior (Score of 20-18)	3 Excellent (Score of 17-13)	2 Good (Score of 12-8)	1 Fair (Score of 7-5)	TOTAL SCORE
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 Judge's name (Please print)

 Judge's signature

ATTENTION TABULATION ROOM: Please note the following:

Timing issue: (_____ mm _____ ss)

Rule violation: _____ ; _____ ; _____

Other comments:

This rubric should not be considered an assessment of student learning. However, it can serve as a model for designing curriculum- based performance assessments and for this reason, alignment to the National Core Standards has been indicated on this form.

Example National Core Theatre Standards aligned to this rubric: TH:Cr1.1.I.b, TH:Cr3.1.I.b, TH:Cr3.1.I.c, TH:Cr1.1.III.a, MA:Cr2.1.I.a, MA:Cr3.1.I.a

To access the full descriptions of the above and all the Core Theatre Standards go to: www.nationalartsstandards.org

For additional Standards resources visit: www.schooltheatre.org/advocacy/standardsresources

Optional aligned state standards: _____

State Standards website: _____

Short Documentary

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Student(s):

School:

Selection:

Troupe:

SKILLS	4 Superior Above standard	3 Excellent At standard	2 Good Near standard	1 Fair Aspiring to standard	SCORE
Storytelling Visual development of story and interview sequences; opening and closing titles, credits, graphics, and animations; conclusion.	Story is well organized, fully developed, and compelling; thoughtful visuals and interview sequences seamlessly advance the narrative and audience connection to the subject(s) and their experiences; choice of opening and closing titles, credits, graphics, and animations enhance and support film's message; ending succinctly resolves central conflict.	Story is well organized, and engaging; visuals and interview sequences advance the narrative and audience connection to the subject(s) and their experiences; choice of opening and closing titles, credits, graphics, and animations support film's message; distinct conclusion.	Story is somewhat organized and mostly developed; visuals and interview sequences are moderately advance the narrative and audience connection to the subject(s) and their experiences; choice of opening and closing titles, credits, graphics, and animations inconsistently support film's message; conclusion is somewhat unclear .	Story is disorganized and/or difficult to follow; minimal use of visual cues and weak interview sequences fail to develop the narrative or produce audience connection; choice of opening and closing titles, credits, graphics, and animations do not support film's message; conclusion is lacking or unclear .	
Comment:					
Cinematography and Audio Integrated use of camera, lighting, and sound.	Subjects, images, and scenes are skillfully shot or framed and align with filmmaker's vision; lighting exposure and camera movement and angles are purposefully chosen to enhance subject and visually advance subject's story; music (if applicable) clearly underscores the action and offers clues to subject and experiences; sound levels consistently even and well metered.	Subjects, images, and scenes are appropriately shot or framed and align with filmmaker's vision; lighting exposure and camera movement and angles are purposefully chosen to advance subject's story; music (if applicable) is appropriate to the story; sound levels are mostly even and well metered.	Subjects, images, and scenes inconsistently shot or framed and do not align with filmmaker's vision; lighting exposure and camera movement and angles sometimes advance subject's story visually; some music (if applicable) is appropriate to the story; sound level errors are evident .	Most subjects, images, and scenes are not shot or framed properly, are under or over exposed, and do not align with the filmmaker's vision; scenes include multiple errors in camera movement and angles; music (if applicable) detracts from rather than supports the story; sound levels are inconsistent .	
Comment:					
Editing Editing skills; scene length and flow.	Purposeful continuity in editing produces well-composed transitions that enhance scene flow, audience engagement, and narrative; scene length and flow purposefully and effectively lead audience from one focal point to another while consistently maintaining physical and spatial relationship of narrative.	Continuity in editing produces composed transitions that enhance scene flow, audience engagement, and narrative; scene length and flow effectively lead audience from one focal point to another while consistently maintaining physical and spatial relationship of narrative.	Inconsistency in editing produces transitions that sometimes disrupt scene flow, audience engagement, and narrative; scene length and flow sometimes lead audience from one focal point to another yet seldom maintain physical and spatial relationship of narrative.	Discontinuity in editing does not produce well-composed transitions that enhance scene flow, audience engagement, and narrative; scene length and flow do not lead audience from one focal point to another, and does not maintain physical and spatial relationship of narrative.	
Comment:					

POV and Portrayal of Subject Filmmaker's POV; choices that affect the portrayal of the subject(s).	Consistently strong POV gives viewer a deeper understanding of film's subject(s); filmmaker's main thesis and intentions for telling story are always clear ; strong choices and tactics employed by filmmaker create solid and insightful portrayal of subject.	Mostly consistent POV gives viewer insight into film's subject(s); filmmaker's main thesis and intentions for telling story are clear ; choices and tactics employed by filmmaker help create solid and insightful portrayal of subject.	Fairly consistent POV sometimes gives viewer insight into film's subject(s); filmmaker's main thesis and intentions for telling story are sometimes clear ; at times, choices and tactics employed by filmmaker help create a meaningful portrayal of subject.	Inconsistent POV rarely gives viewer insight into film's subject(s); filmmaker's main thesis and intentions for telling story are rarely clear; no evidence of choices and tactics that help to create a meaningful portrayal of subject.	
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Comment:

Filmmaker's Vision Use of film elements to create a successful final product.	Filmmaker conveyed clear vision and consistently adhered to rules established for the film; all elements worked together to create an impactful, engaging film with a powerful voice.	Filmmaker conveyed mostly clear vision and frequently adhered to the rules established for the film; most elements worked together to create an engaging film.	Filmmaker attempted to convey clear vision and inconsistently adhered to the rules established for the film; few elements worked together to create an engaging film.	Filmmaker failed to convey a clear vision and did not adhere to the rules established for the film; elements did not work together to create an engaging film.	
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Comment:

RATING <small>(Please circle)</small>	4 Superior <small>(Score of 20-18)</small>	3 Excellent <small>(Score of 17-13)</small>	2 Good <small>(Score of 12-8)</small>	1 Fair <small>(Score of 7-5)</small>	TOTAL SCORE
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 Judge's name (Please print)

 Judge's signature

ATTENTION TABULATION ROOM: Please note the following:

- Timing issue: (_____ mm _____ ss)
- Rule violation: _____; _____; _____
- Other comments:

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Optional aligned state standards: _____

State Standards website: _____

Short Film

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Student(s):

School:

Selection:

Troupe:

SKILLS	4 Superior Above standard	3 Excellent At standard	2 Good Near standard	1 Fair Aspiring to standard	SCORE
Storytelling Visual development of story and dialogue; opening and closing titles, credits, graphics, and animations; conclusion.	Story is well organized, fully developed, and compelling; visuals and dialogue seamlessly advance the narrative to enhance the audience connection to the plot and character(s); choice of opening and closing titles, credits, graphics, and animations enhance and support film's message; ending concisely resolves the central conflict.	Story is well organized, and engaging; visuals and dialogue advance the narrative and the audience connection to the plot and characters; choice of opening and closing titles, credits, graphics, and animations support the film's message; distinct conclusion.	Story is somewhat organized and mostly developed; visuals and dialogue are moderately effective in advancing the narrative and the audience connection to the plot and characters; choice of opening and closing titles, credits, graphics, and animations inconsistently support the film's message; conclusion is somewhat unclear .	Story is disorganized and/or difficult to follow; minimal use of visual cues and weak dialogue fail to develop the narrative or produce an audience connection; choice of opening and closing titles, credits, graphics, and animations do not support the film's message; conclusion is lacking or unclear .	
Comment:					
Cinematography and Audio Integrated use of camera, lighting, and sound.	Scenes/characters are skillfully shot or framed and align with filmmaker's vision; lighting exposure and camera movement/angles are purposefully chosen to enhance performances and advance the story; music (if applicable) underscores action and offers clues to character/ plot; sound levels are consistently even and well metered.	Scenes/characters are appropriately shot or framed and align with filmmaker's vision; lighting exposure and camera movement/angles are purposefully chosen to advance the story; music (if applicable) is appropriate to the story; sound levels are mostly even and well metered.	Inconsistent use of appropriate shots or framing and lighting exposure do not align with filmmaker's vision; camera movement/angles sometimes advance the story visually; some music (if applicable) is appropriate to the story; sound level errors are evident .	Most scenes/characters are not shot or framed properly, are under or over exposed, and do not align with filmmaker's vision; scenes include multiple errors in camera movement/angles; music (if applicable) deducts from rather than supports the story; sound levels are inconsistent .	
Comment:					
Editing Editing skills; scene length and flow.	Purposeful continuity in editing produces well-composed transitions that enhance scene flow, audience engagement, and narrative; scene length and flow purposefully and effectively lead audience from one focal point to another while consistently maintaining physical/spatial relationship of the narrative.	Continuity in editing produces composed transitions that enhance scene flow, audience engagement, and narrative; scene length and flow effectively lead audience from one focal point to another while consistently maintaining physical/spatial relationship of the narrative.	Inconsistent continuity in editing produces transitions that disrupt scene flow, audience engagement, and narrative; scene length and flow sometimes lead audience from one focal point to another yet seldom maintain physical/spatial relationship of the narrative.	Discontinuity in editing does not produce well-composed transitions that enhance scene flow, audience engagement, and narrative; scene length and flow does not lead audience from one focal point to another, and does not maintain physical/spatial relationship of the narrative.	
Comment:					

Acting Emotional and physical believability; choices and tactics.	Character movements, actions, gestures, and expressions are consistently believable ; choices and tactics toward an objective prompt instinctive reaction to partners or events that create insight into the text.	Character movements, actions, gestures, and expressions are believable ; choices and tactics toward an objective prompt reaction to partners or events.	Character movements, actions, gestures and expressions are sometimes emotionally/physically believable ; choices and tactics toward an objective sometimes prompt reactions to partners or events.	Character movements, actions, gestures, and expressions are rarely emotionally/physically believable ; choices and tactics toward an objective are not evident and do not prompt reactions to partners or events.	
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Comment:

Filmmaker's Vision Use of film elements to create a successful final product.	Filmmaker conveyed clear vision and consistently adhered to rules established for film; all elements worked together to create an impactful, engaging film with a powerful voice.	Filmmaker conveyed mostly clear vision and frequently adhered to the rules established for the film; most elements worked together to create an engaging film.	Filmmaker attempted to convey clear vision and inconsistently adhered to the rules established for the film; few elements worked together to create an engaging film.	Filmmaker failed to convey a clear vision and did not adhere to the rules established for the film; elements did not work together to create an engaging film.	
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Comment:

RATING (Please circle)	4 Superior (Score of 20-18)	3 Excellent (Score of 17-13)	2 Good (Score of 12-8)	1 Fair (Score of 7-5)	TOTAL SCORE
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_____ Judge's name (Please print)

_____ Judge's signature

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Rule violation: _____ ; _____ ; _____

Other comments: _____

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Optional aligned state standards: _____

State Standards website: _____