

SkillsUSA Maryland/2024 State Championship

AMP DIGITAL CINEMA COMPETITION GUIDELINES

WHAT TO EXPECT: Thank you for participating in this year's SkillsUSA State Digital Cinema competition. Here is a brief outline of how you can best be prepared for your state's event:

1. **State of Maryland:** This is a one-day competition where contestants must show up to the event with a fully completed short film ready to hand in.
2. Digital Cinema students will begin working on their films on Tuesday April 2, 2024.
3. Students will only be required to bring their final films to the contest on Saturday April 13, 2024 (on SD card)
4. Students will complete a 50 question knowledge test on morning of the contest.
5. Films will be screened in the contest site on along with student Presentations (below).

I. GENRE & DIALOGUE: (200 points)

Genre: _____ Horror _____

Dialogue: _____ "Do you think they'll notice the scar?" _____

II. FILM SPECS: (50 points)

- 4½ to 5½ minutes in length
- Video output to H.264 (.mp4)
- Films must be shot in 24fps (or 23.98)
- Aspect Ratio: Your choice (16:9 or 2.39)
- Resolution: 1080p (shooting 4k acceptable, but export must be 1080p.
- 2 second leader of black video
- 5 second title slide using white font with with contestant number ONLY on black video
- PG Rated. No showing of physical violence (implied violence ok), No sexual content, No foul language, No use of illegal drugs or alcohol. Ultimately follow your school's policy and do NOT get your instructor in hot water!!!
- All content must be original and created within the given time frame. The use of copyright material, stock footage or template effects in NOT allowed.
- Film/Video instructors are prohibited from assisting or acting in your production in ANY way.
- No end film credits

III. PRESENTATION: (50 points)

- State the film's Logline.
- What was the concept / inspiration for the film?
- Describe the gear used for the film (cameras & settings, lighting, audio, etc...)
- Explain any visual or sound effects used in the film.

IV. WRITTEN TEST: (200 points)

- Basic camera settings (i.e. White Balance, ISO, Shutter speeds, Apertures, etc...)
- Frame Rates
- Resolution & Compression
- Audio settings & equipment
- Stabilizers and camera movements
- Types of Shots
- Basic editing techniques (i.e. cuts, color grading, output)

V. SUBMISSIONS: (100 points)

1. Your final film (.mp4) **Named:** Digital-Cinema-(contestant #)
EXAMPLE: **Digital-Cinema-102**
2. Your storyboard (.pdf) **Named:** Storyboard-(contestant #)
3. Your script (.pdf) **Named:** Script--(contestant #)
4. Permissions folder **Named:** Permissions - this should contain any questionable content in your film including music, sound effects, or visual effects that may “look” to have a copyright. Documentation must explain content origination or permissions from the maker to use in your film. All documentation should also be in (.pdf) form.
5. Your resume (.pdf) **Named:** Resume-(contestant #)

VI. FILM SCORING: (400 points)

- Script (quality of)
- Cinematography & Camera operations
- Audio capture & Mixing
- Editing (overall quality)

All questions regarding this state test can be sent to:

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