

DIGITAL CINEMA COMPETITION GUIDELINES (MARYLAND)

WHAT TO EXPECT: Thank you for participating in this year's SkillsUSA State Digital Cinema competition. The prompt is released several days prior to the state competition and students work on completing their films back at their home schools. Completed films are then uploaded to the contest chair 1 or 2 days before the state contest to be pre-screened by industry professionals. Here is an outline of the requirements:

1. **DEADLINE & UPLOAD:** Films **MUST** be completed and received by:
Thursday March 27th, 2025 by 12pm
2. The Submissions Folder containing ALL required documentation (see **VI SUBMISSIONS FOLDER** below) **MUST** be uploaded to [WeTransfer.com](https://www.wetransfer.com) and sent to bjc@amp-school.com by the deadline above.
3. **FILMS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL RECEIVE A 100 POINT PENALTY.**
4. **NO VIDEO EQUIPMENT OR COMPUTERS ARE REQUIRED AT THE STATE CONTEST.** Students must bring a backup of their Submissions Folder on an SD card to the contest in the event there are technical difficulties during the contest day.
5. Immediately after the Opening Ceremonies (Time?), a 50 question Knowledge Test will be administered to all contestants in the contest site.
6. All students films will be reviewed by all contestants and instructors in a film festival format. A short public critique of each film will immediately follow each film.
7. Immediately after the viewing, students will complete a 5-10 minute Presentation of their films. (See **IV PRESENTATION** below).
8. Honor System: Film/Video instructors/advisors are prohibited from acting in or assisting the student's production in **ANY** way.

I. GENRE & DIALOGUE: (200 points - 100 points each)

Genre: _____ Dark Comedy _____

Dialogue: _____ "Ok, we go on three. One Two . . . Three!" _____

II. FILM SPECS: (100 points - 10 points each)

1. 4½ to 5½ minutes in length
2. Video output to H.264 (.mp4)
3. Films **MUST** be shot in 24fps (or 23.98)
4. Aspect Ratio: Your choice (16:9 or 2.39)
5. Resolution: 1080p (shooting 4k acceptable, but export must be 1080p).
6. Start with a 2 second leader of black video. This does not count in the overall film.
7. Next, a 5 second Team Number using white font on black video
8. Next, the film must be 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!!!
9. End with a 5 second Film Title using a fade out.
10. No end credits; judges must not know the school or county.

