Digital Cinema Production
2023 SkillsUSA Michigan State Championships

New this year: Updated judges scoring to align more closely with the National Competition. No limit on the number of 2 person teams competing from a school going direct to state.

The Digital Cinema Production contest is designed to evaluate and recognize outstanding students for excellence and professionalism with their filmmaking skills in the areas of development, preproduction, production and post production through the writing, producing, directing and editing of a four-and-one-half to five-minute short film based on the prompt given.

Description: This contest will demonstrate your technical and creative skills through the creation of a creative narrative short film (the video is not a PSA, commercial or documentary). Judges will evaluate your work in a variety of areas, See Digital Cinema Rating Sheet.

Effective storytelling techniques through story development, the use of creative shots/angles, camera movement, depth of field, composition, lighting (practical & motivated), editing techniques, music, sound design.

No preproduced video or stock footage is allowed.

Film must begin with 5 seconds of slate, then 5 seconds of black, then the Short Film.
(Slate and Black are not counted as part of the 4.5-5 minutes)
Produce a 4½ to 5 minute short film using the following criteria:

Role of the Adviser and Important Safety Notes:
SkillsUSA advisers and/or any audio video production instructor(s) are not permitted to critique or advise students on any aspect of this contest once the prompt is released. They are also not permitted to advise students on the Pitch/Interview once the prompt is released. It is SkillsUSA policy that advisers/instructors are not permitted to interact with their students once a contest has started.

PG-13 Rated. No showing of explicit or gratuitous violence (implied violence ok), No sexual content, No foul language, No use of illegal drugs or alcohol. Ultimately follow your school's policy.
• 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

Film Length Too Long or Too Short (-1 point per second)

This video is to be completely produced by the two registered SkillsUSA members, there is not to be assistance given to them by anyone (including other students and family).
Film can use any school appropriate Genre (comedy, horror, thriller, drama, etc.)
This is with the exception of royalty free production music with the proper documentation to be provided if questions or concerns arise.

Each video must have a slate: See Example Below:
Team: Letter (State director will assign contestants Team Letters after registering for the contest. Please keep track of the team letter; it gets very confusing for the judges if you do not keep track of these).

Video should be exported as a H.264.

SLATE EXAMPLE:
<div align="center">

MISkillsUSA Digital Cinema 2023
(Team Letter)
Date of Completion
Music source / licensing

</div>

Attach all pre-production materials as PDFs or JPEGs in the same email with the video link.

Competition winners will be announced at the final awards ceremony in Grand Rapids, MI.

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Task and Materials List

Dates:
Friday March 10th through Friday March 17th, 2023.
The prompt will be emailed to the advisors from the contest coordinator by 9 AM on March 10th.
The final film's link and Pre-Pro docs must be emailed before 6 PM on Friday, March 17th.

Objective:
Upon receiving criteria, teams have one week to write, shoot, edit, upload, and email all Pre-Production materials and video link for a 4 1⁄2-to-5-minute short film.

Teams:
Two person teams only. No more, no less.

ALL students/teams need to be registered for the State Conference at
http://www.skillsusa-register.org
 by March 1st, 2023 in order to be eligible to compete in the state contest!

Judging:
Judging sheet is provided. It includes a mixture of Artistic Merit and Technical Merit. Judges will not know school or student affiliation and are not partial to any program.

Requirements:
You will be given a prompt to design your film around. Film length must be 4 1⁄2 – 5 minutes in length.

   a) Do not add credits that will identify the film makers or the school program.
   b) You are allowed to have up to 10 seconds of opening film titles, as long as they don't identify the filmmakers or their school affiliation. (Sperate from the slate)
   c) No other credits are allowed to be in the film.
   d) Start with 5 seconds black, followed by 5 seconds of slate, followed by 5seconds of black. At the end, add 5 seconds of black.
   e) Video should be exported as a H.264
   f) The slate must have the following info:

      - MISkillsUSA Digital Cinema 2023
      -(Team Letter)
      -Date of completion
      -Music source / licensing

***Do not include the name of the school that you are from in the slate, or in the film description on the web upload page.

Submitting the Final Film and Pre-Production:
Once done, upload the final film to a personal YouTube or Vimeo channel.
Use *#MISkillsUSADigitalCinema2023* in the description of the video.

Email film link and Pre-Production materials to:
tmills@northwested.org
Use "SkillsUSA Digital Cinema 2023 Team (___ put your team letter here)" in the subject line. Each team will be assigned a team letter by the contest coordinator after registration.

**Make sure you know how long uploading will take you and for it to appear on the site as to not miss the deadline. Technical difficulty in uploads will not allow more time in the contest. As long as the link is submitted before the deadline, it can still be encoding on the site. As long as the link that is submitted before the deadline is working when the judges begin to review the films, you will be included in the contest. Any link that is not working or sent after the deadline will not be considered.

Note: This is a contest that is run on the honor system. Once the prompt is given, advisors should not have any role in the student productions, other than signing out equipment.

Uploading should also be done by students but can be done at school, **but not uploaded to a YouTube or Vimeo channel affiliated with the program or school.**

Rules:
- PG-13 Rated. No showing of explicit or gratuitous violence (implied violence ok), No sexual content, No foul language, No use of illegal drugs or alcohol. Ultimately follow your school's policy.

- 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.

- While students can work on films during regular class time, they are not permitted to request help, feedback, or production advice on the competition project from their teacher/advisor.

- Students may request to sign out equipment from their teacher/advisor, but not to ask for recommendations on what equipment to use for the film or training on the equipment.

- Students may cast actors outside of their group to be in their film but cannot add other crew members or writers. Film/Video instructors are prohibited from assisting or acting in your production in ANY way.

- All music must be royalty free.

- No use of guns in film, even fake ones.

- **Attach all pre-production materials as PDFs or JPEGs in the same email with the video link.**

Revised 1/15/23

JUDGE #	**Digital Cinema Production Score Sheet** **2023 SkillsUSA Michigan State Championships**	**Team Letter**

Judges: Please indicate the number corresponding to the level of proficiency
Demonstrated in each category using the following key:
"0" - Not Good to "10" - Good

	SCORE
Well-organized and easy to follow Pro-Production. (Any combination of Storyboard, Shot Lists, Script or screenplay etc.)	
Effective story structure	
Production Design: Sets, locations, and wardrobes are well designed and add to the quality of the film	
Utilize well thought out character movement and actions	
Design a quality audio track with well balanced and appropriately mixed audio levels.	
Demonstrate quality sound design with how elements of sound are applied and utilized throughout the film.	
Demonstrate proper focus and utilized throughout the film.	
Proper use of lighting choices with appropriate exposure and white balance throughout the film.	
Demonstrate the use of multiple camera techniques, movements, angles, depth of field and a variety of shots.	
Demonstrate editing techniques with well designed pacing, continuity, effective transitions, and consistency.	
Demonstrate control of the actors with realistic portrayals.(Mood, emotion, voice, facial expressions)	
Overall quality cinematography and shot composition.	
Viewer Interest Created	
JUDGE'S SECTION TOTAL	

PENALTIES Applied by Contest coordinator. One time per team

Film Length Too Long or Too Short	Minus 1 point per second	
Incorrect slate structure	Minus 10 points	
Missed deadline.	Disqualified	
Use of copyright protected music or video	Disqualified	

GRAND TOTAL