



Digital Cinema Production 2024 SkillsUSA Michigan State Championships

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.

Role of the Adviser and Important 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. It is SkillsUSA policy that advisers/instructors are not permitted to interact with their students once a contest has started.

Team Letters (State director will assign contestants Team Letters after registering for the contest. Please keep track of your team letters.

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



Digital Cinema Production 2024 SkillsUSA Michigan State Championships Task and Materials List

Dates:

Friday March 8th through Friday March 15th, 2024.

The prompt will be emailed to the advisors from the contest coordinator by 9 AM on March 8th.

The final film's link and Pre-Pro docs must be emailed before 6 PM on Friday, March 15th.

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 5th, 2024 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 between 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. (Separate from the slate)
- c) No other credits are allowed to be in the film.
- d) Start with 5 seconds of slate, followed by 5 seconds of black.
- e) Upload the final film to a personal YouTube or Vimeo channel.
- f) Attach Pre-Production materials as PDFs of JPEGs to the same email with your video link.
- g) The slate must have the following info:
- h) SLATE EXAMPLE:

MISkillsUSA Digital Cinema 2024

(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 **#MISkillsUSADigitalCinema2024** in the description of the video.

Email film link and Pre-Production materials to: curtis.clark@motionpicture.edu

Use "SkillsUSA Digital Cinema 2024 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. No use of guns in film, even fake ones. 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.
- Film can use any school appropriate Genre (comedy, horror, thriller, drama, etc.)
- Film Length Too Long or Too Short (Minus 10 points per second for the first 10 seconds over/under). Disqualified more than 10 seconds over/under.
- **Attach all pre-production materials as PDFs or JPEGs in the same email with the video link.**