



All projects must be submitted in Schoology (TMS5-XDFQ-GXT78) by Monday, February 2nd at 4:00 P.M. The [Submission Form](#) must also be completed by Monday, February 2nd at 4:00 P.M.

Category: Documentary

A documentary film shares facts in an interesting way. Documentaries include facts that must be true and backed up with credible sources. Usually, documentaries include interviews from sources and/or reference statistical visuals such as graphs or maps. This film has a definite audience that are usually called to action by the watching of the documentary. Documentaries can feature live action or animation and footage from primary sources with proper credit given.

HINT: To get started, think of a problem or facts that you think people need to know about. Interview an expert in this field or someone who has experience with this topic. Plan a way to share these facts and experiences in an interesting way that grip your audience.

Short Documentary Film Examples:

[This Day in History](#) by History.com

[Plastic Ocean Trailor](#) by Craig Leeson

SUBMISSION NOTES:

To submit your documentary in the Film Fest Competition, you will need to remember a few items to make sure you get full points and your video is not disqualified.

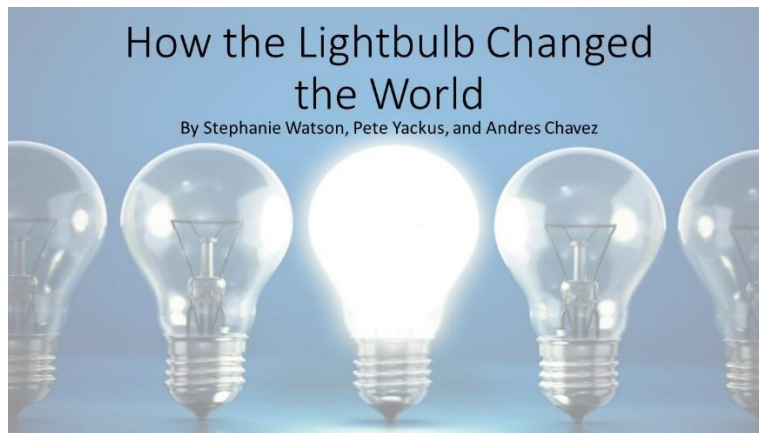
1. Be aware of the length of the film. Here are the maximum lengths of documentary films.
(Credits included)

Elementary	Up to 3 minutes
Middle	Up to 5 minutes
High	Up to 7 minutes

2. Films must be created this school year (2025-2026).
3. A maximum of three filmmakers can be included in the list of people to award for the film.
4. Films must be appropriate for school audiences (G- General Audiences). Please see the [MPA Ratings Guidelines](#) (page 6)
5. Title and credits must be included with the film. Please remember to include:

- Title of Film and names of those who created the film
- Director Name
- Actors Names (must also have a media release form for each person appearing in film)
- Media sources (include music, photography, and film credits)

Opening Credits Sample (from a Documentary film):



Ending Credits Sample:



6. Films must adhere to [copyright rules and fair use policy](#) and [licensing agreements](#), for all music, images, and video used in the film. See below for more details.

Music Tips

Great to add to your film	Avoid these at all costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music you have a license to use • Music from copyright free and royalty free sites • Any of the above options WITH credit given at the end of your film. Example: Music: « <i>Song Title</i> » from Bensound.com • Music you wrote and performed yourself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Songs ripped from Youtube • Popular songs by famous artists that are clearly owned by large media companies • Any song if you are unsure of what the usage rights are
Great sources for copyright/royalty free music: bensound.com , dig.ccmixer.org , danosongs.com , etc	

Image Tips

Great to add to your film	Avoid these at all costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Images you have a license to use •Images from copyright free and royalty free sites •Any of the above options WITH credit given at the end of your film. Example: Image (be descriptive here): « <i>Image Title</i> » from •Images you created yourself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Simple “googled” image search results •Popular images clearly owned by companies •Any image if you are unsure of what the usage rights are
Great sources for copyright/royalty free images: commons.wikimedia.org , unsplash.com , burst.shopify.com , etc	

Video Tips

Great to add to your film	Avoid these at all costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Video from copyright free and royalty free sites •Any of the above options WITH credit given at the end of your film. Example: Video clip (add short description): « <i>Video Title</i> » from OjasweinGuptaOJG (creator) at pixabay.com •Video you created yourself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Videos ripped from Youtube •Most shows and movies •Any video if you are unsure of what the usage rights are
Great sources for copyright/royalty free videos: pexels.com/videos/ , Canva, Adobe Express	

- Students will submit the film in the Film Fest Schoology Course: **TMS5-XDFQ-GXT78** and need to submit film information on the [Submission Form](#).
- On the submission form an artist statement must be completed. This will consist of approximately two to four sentences. (Must include why the student created this project, its meaning to them, and describe their creation process.)

Example (from a documentary) I created this film to show the story behind how astronauts train to go into space since these people dare to discover space. I became interested in this back-story of astronaut training at a field trip to NASA last year. I filmed most of the shots myself but used some stock footage from Adobe. I created original music for this project in Garage Band software.

- Films need to be [uploaded](#) in these film types: .mp4, .avi, .wmv, or .mov. Links to files need to be public or a file in One Drive (must have rights to view with all who have link). **No incomplete project files/ links will be accepted, only finalized film files.** (ex: .prproj files will not be accepted)

Judging Rubric

Video Elements	Extraordinary (16-20)	Satisfactory (11-15)	Needs Improvement (5-10)	Incomplete (0)	Score
Information and Call to Action	All facts are well researched with sufficient evidence to give a complete account of the event or bring social awareness to the problem.	Some facts are well researched with sufficient evidence to give a complete account of the event or bring social awareness to the problem but some of the information stated was opinion or lacked evidence.	Some facts are well researched with sufficient evidence to give an adequate account of the event or bring social awareness to the problem but there are more opinions than facts presented.	There are little to no facts presented or they are not researched sufficiently. No facts or no credible sources for the facts= 0 points	
Originality	Video incorporates originally filmed video clips and sound created by the student(s) (Not just stock footage or sound) Needs to be explained in credits.	Video incorporates original video clips or sound created by the student(s)	Video does not incorporate original video or sound but edits the clips or uses sounds in a new and different way.	Video does not incorporate any original sound or video clips. It does not use clips and sound in an original way.	
Video Editing	Shots & scenes flow seamlessly to tell a story. (Viewer does not notice the cuts and watches the story) Transitions are used solely to aid in communicating the main idea. Visual effects are used for emphasis in telling the story.	Shots & scenes flow smoothly from shot to shot. Transitions are used to aid in communicating the main idea, but the story is more noticeable than the shots.	Shots & scenes do not flow smoothly from shot to shot. Transitions from shot to shot are choppy and distract from the story. Visual effects are overdone & distract from telling the story.	The video editing is lacking and does not tell a continuous story. (no clear beginning, middle, end)	
Sound Design, Narration, and Editing	The audio is clear and effectively	The audio is clear, but only partially assists in communicating	The audio is inconsistent in clarity at times & doesn't	Audio is cutoff And inconsistent. It interferes	

	<p>assists in communicating the main idea.</p> <p>The audio editing enhances the storytelling and adds value & atmosphere to the film.</p> <p>The sound design stirs a rich emotional response that enhances the storytelling. It adds excellent value & atmosphere to the story.</p>	<p>the story being told.</p> <p>The sound design stirs an emotional response that somewhat enhances the storytelling. It adds good value and atmosphere to the story.</p>	<p>communicate the story well.</p> <p>The viewer has to strain to hear the dialogue.</p> <p>The sound design does not stir an emotional response. It detracts from the storytelling.</p>	<p>with understanding of the story.</p> <p>The dialogue is absent or inaudible. The sound design is distracting, inappropriate, or completely missing.</p> <p>Does not incorporate sound= 0 points</p>	
Pacing and Timing	<p>The pacing of the film is purposeful and does not seem too short nor too long (making the viewer confused or bored).</p> <p>Does not exceed time limit set for category.</p>	<p>The pacing seems to drag somewhat or needs slightly more detail once in the film.</p> <p>Does not exceed time limit set for category.</p>	<p>The pacing of the film is noticeably too long or too short in more than one place.</p> <p>Does not exceed the time limit set for category.</p>	<p>The pacing of the film is noticeably too long or too short throughout.</p> <p>The film exceeds the time limit for the category.</p> <p>If film goes over time allotted, it will be disqualified.</p>	
Cinematography and Shot Variety	<p>All shots are clearly focused and well framed using the Rule of Thirds.</p> <p>The video is steady throughout.</p> <p>Video shows an excellent selection of various camera shots to tell a story.</p>	<p>Most of the shots are clearly focused & well framed using the Rule of Thirds.</p> <p>The majority of the video is steady.</p> <p>Video shows some variety of various camera shots to tell a story.</p>	<p>Most of the shots are not clearly focused & well framed using the Rule of Thirds.</p> <p>The video rocks &/or shakes.</p> <p>The video does not show various camera shots to tell a story.</p>	<p>All of the shots are not clearly focused & well framed using the Rule of Thirds.</p> <p>The video rocks &/or shakes throughout most of the film.</p>	
Creativity in Presentation of material (examples	Video is engagingly organized and	Video is mostly organized and holds the	Video is often disorganized and incomplete but is	Video seems incomplete and hard to follow	

include special effects, scene transitions, stop animation, varying speed of film, excellent sound editing)	presents material that is captivating for the viewer. Includes advanced elements of video design that enhance the storytelling.	attention of the viewer. Includes advanced elements of video design.	somewhat able to hold the viewer's attention.	due to lack of components.	
Ending Credits with Citations	Citations are accurate, all present, include all participants and sources, legible, & draw the viewer's attention.	Citations are accurate, most are present, includes all participants and sources, legible.	Citations are inaccurate or partially missing.	No citations. If film does not include credits and citations, it will be disqualified.	

Judges can also nominate films from this category for the special awards, which include People's Choice Award, Best Cinematography, Best Storyline, and Best Picture.

If you have any questions or need any help with submissions, please email Kimberly.Wienken@fortbendisd.gov.