

**Film & Video:
General Contest Policies**

1. In the interest of fairness, we ask for strict adherence to competition rules. Deviation from the guidelines is ground for disqualification.
2. Each school will be allowed two entries (one from grades 9-10 and one from grades 11-12) in each of the following categories:
 - *Narrative (Storytelling) Film*
 - *Documentary Film*
3. Films must be submitted by ~~{DATE}~~ **Friday, March 24**, either by sending a file readable by a Mac or Windows machine on a CD or DVD, or by sending a link to the video online (on a site such as YouTube or VIMEO) in an email to the Humanities secretary, Linda Szypulski, las166@pitt.edu. Shortly after the submission, you will receive notification that your disc or email has been received.

Narrative (Storytelling) Film Guidelines

1. Each school is limited to two entries (one from grades 9-10 and one from grades 11-12) ~~in each language (Chinese, French, German and Spanish).~~
2. The film length should be between 8 and 10 minutes.
3. Do not include “padding,” or unnecessarily long, drawn-out sequences, which do not add to the story.
4. The story must be fictional; no shooting your friends having an “MTV Real World” experience in your hometown.
5. There must be at least 2 actors.
6. There must be at least 10 lines of dialogue.
7. There must be at least three locations.
8. There must be a title sequence, with music, not to exceed 20 sec.
9. There must be end credits, with all participants properly credited, not to exceed 1 minute.
10. Entries will be evaluated on the basis of the following:
 - The fulfillment of the above guidelines, plus:
 - Audible sound and understandable dialogue
 - Smooth edits, with no jarring transitions

- Original ideas, and not a rehash of previously-seen works. (For example, don't just make a parody of *Star Wars*; if you want to make a *Star Wars* film, you should create a new story within that universe.)

Documentary Film Guidelines

1. Each school is limited to two entries (one from grades 9-10 and one from grades 11-12) in each language (Chinese, French, German and Spanish).
2. The film length should be between 8 and 10 minutes.
3. At least three camera angles.
4. At least one voiceover.
5. A title sequence, with music, not to exceed 20 sec.
6. The documentary must center on a fact-based topic or theme; it can-not just be random shots edited together to look “artsy.” It should seek to reveal new perspectives or offer novel perspectives on existing or continuing stories, especially those important to local communities within and outside of the school. Research is required to help orient the audience to the story, address the main journalistic questions (who, what, when, where, why, and how) and show why documenting this story and/or side of the story matters to viewers.
7. There must be end credits, with all participants properly credited, not to exceed 1 minute.
8. Entries will be evaluated on the basis of the following:
 - The fulfillment of the above guidelines, plus:
 - Audible and understandable sound
 - Smooth edits, with no jarring transitions
 - Original ideas, and not a rehash of previously-seen works. (For example, don't just make your own version of *Bait Car* or *Cops*; choose a new topic or idea from the world around you.

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