



Area-Wide Short Film Competition, Fall 2016

This fall Prairie View A&M University will again host the “Festival on the Hill”, a short-film competition for creative college and university students in the Houston area. This year the festival is going MOBILE! All participants will be required to shoot their films using a smartphone or tablet computer. **The deadline for film submissions is Friday, October 14th, and the festival itself will be held on Saturday, October 29th in the MSC Ballroom.**

Think you’re up for the challenge? If so, visit the link below for rules, guidelines, and other info:

<http://www.pvamu.edu/lcom/festival-on-the-hill>

This event is sponsored by:



PRAIRIE VIEW
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RULES & GUIDELINES

For the “Festival on the Hill” competition, you and a team will be required to write, shoot, and edit an original short film on the topic of your choice. You’ll be assigned a character, prop, and line of dialogue that **MUST** be included in your film (see below). You will then have until 9:00pm CST on Friday, October 14th to submit your completed film. **LATE ENTRIES WILL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM THE COMPETITION.**

The films will be screened on Saturday, October 29th, 2016 at Prairie View A&M University’s Memorial Student Center Ballroom as part of an all-day film and media festival. The festival will also include free filmmaking workshops, networking opportunities, and an awards ceremony for the top entries.

Here are the required elements for this year’s films...

- Character – an artist
- Prop – tape (*the sticky kind*)
- Line of dialogue – “You can look, but don’t touch.”

Remember that all film submissions must include these three elements and films that use them creatively will be rewarded.

Student Film Competition FAQs

How much does it cost to enter?

There is no cost to participate in this competition, but you must register your team and complete the related forms in order for your film to be considered.

What kinds of cameras can we use? What counts as a mobile device?

ALL FOOTAGE used in film submissions must be shot on a smartphone or tablet (any brand). Multiple mobile devices can be used, but non-mobile cameras (DSLR’s, camcorders, point-and-shoot cameras, etc.) are **NOT** permitted. Participants will be asked to provide a list of all devices used for filming as part of the submission process.

Aside from mobile devices, can we use any additional equipment?

Additional equipment such as microphones, tripods, lighting, and other accessories are allowed so long as all film footage is shot using a mobile device.

What about editing?

Films do not have to be edited on a mobile device. Feel free to use the audio/video editing software of your choice.

What should the film be about?

The film can be about anything; however, the assigned character, prop, and line of dialogue must be included in your film. The film can fit within any genre you choose.

Who can participate?

Students (any major) and recent graduates (within the past 3 years) from all invited institutions can participate in the film festival. Everyone working on the film must be a volunteer. No one can be paid for his/her work.

Student Film Competition FAQs (cont.)

How many people can work in a group?

There is no limit on group size for this competition; however, please be sure that at least one member of your group can be physically present for the awards ceremony on Oct. 29th. You should also keep in mind that winners will be asked to share prizes with their fellow team members.

Can I work alone?

Yes, solo entries will be accepted.

What if I don't want to enter the competition, but I still want to attend the festival?

If you are not participating in the competition, you are still welcome to attend the workshops, film screenings, and other events scheduled on October 29th; however, you should still complete the online registration form so that we can get an accurate count of who will be attending.

How long does the film need to be?

Films must be a minimum of 5 minutes and a maximum of 10 minutes, including credits.

How am I supposed to use the character, prop, and line of dialogue?

It's totally up to you! You can integrate these elements into your film in any way you'd like — be creative. The important thing is that all three **MUST** be included.

Can I shoot in HD?

Both Standard and High Definition are acceptable formats.

Can I include animation?

For this year's film festival, there should be no animation included in the films.

Can I include music?

Any music that is featured in your film must be either an original song or a royalty-free composition. The unauthorized use of copyrighted material may lead to group disqualification.

Where do I submit my work?

Click here for a link to the Festival on the Hill submission site.

In what file format should I save my film?

Film submissions should be saved in .MP4, .MOV, or .WMV format.

Judging Criteria

All submissions will be evaluated by a panel of judges, who will consider the following criteria in order to select finalists and determine the winners:

- Does the film adhere to the contest rules and requirements?
- Does the film have a creative story?
- Does the film show filmmaking craftsmanship (good sound, lighting, shot composition, etc.)?
- Is the film entertaining?
- Is the film visually appealing?
- Is the film well edited?
- Does the film use the required elements (character, prop, line of dialogue) in an interesting way?