

BEFORE WE GET STARTED

**Register your
attendance.**

Session numbers are in
the program.



SCAN HERE FOR
TYLER ROSTERS



TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE



Getting Started with the UIL Film Festival

“May the Force Be With You”. *Star Wars*



Let's tell a story

**“Every time I go to a movie, it's magic, no matter what the movie's about.”
– Steven Spielberg.**

It was a dark and stormy night

A group of teenagers were standing in front of a house...

What can you do with film that you can't do onstage?



- Manipulate the audience's **spatial** relationship and **point of view**
 - through **types of shots** and **camera movements**

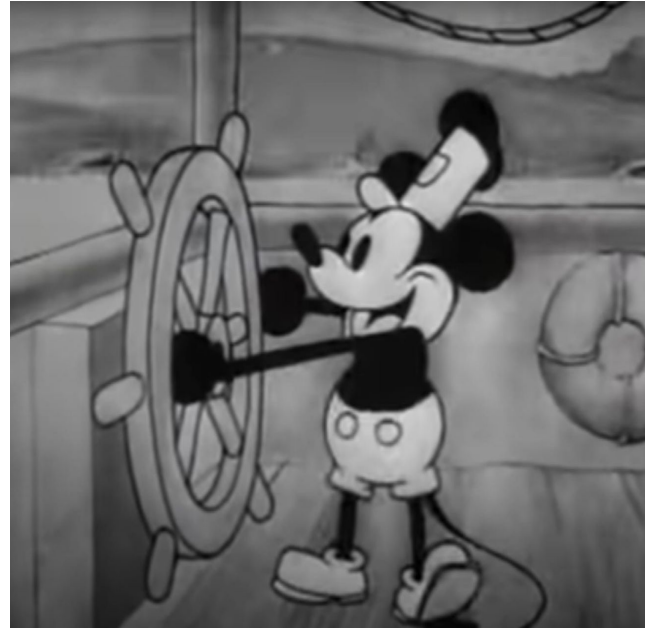
You get to shoot multiple takes to get the **best performance**
- Move quickly from scene to scene
- Add visual and audio **effects** easily.

What else?

Highlight real stories of **real people** in **Documentaries**.

Use **editing** techniques creatively.

Animation!



STEAMBOAT WILLIE, WALT DISNEY ANIMATION, 1928

Purpose and Format of the Festival

To provide students with the opportunity **to explore the art of cinematic storytelling.**



The ULL Young Filmmakers Contest

Combined Conference 3A (1A-3A)

Conference 4A

Conference 5A

Conference 6A

CATEGORIES

Each school may submit three (3) films in each of the following four categories.

NARRATIVE
(3–7 minutes max)

DIGITAL ANIMATION
(30 seconds-3 minutes max)

DOCUMENTARY
(3–7 minutes max)

TRADITIONAL ANIMATION
(30 seconds-3 minutes max)

See Specific Definitions in FILM Guidebook

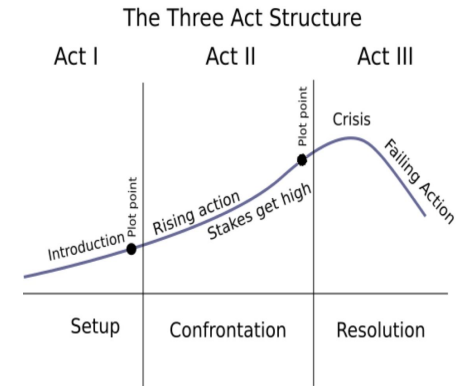
NARRATIVE



Narrative is a film that tells a cohesive, often **FICTIONAL** story.

Story is a series of represented events, characters and actions out of which the audience constructs a fictional time, place, and **cause-effect world**.

Standard plot structure.



6A State Champion, [Washed Up](#), Ft Bend Ridge Point High School

DOCUMENTARY

A practice of filmmaking that deals with actual and factual (and usually contemporary) issues, institutions, and people; whose purpose is to inform, communicate, persuade, raise consciousness, or satisfy curiosity.

The viewer is commonly addressed as a citizen of a public sphere.

Documentary methods may involve filming 'real people' as themselves in actual locations, using natural light and ambient sound.

NOTE: **Mockumentaries** (i.e. *The Office*, *This is Spinal Tap*) are fictional stories told using the techniques of documentary, so they are classified as **Narrative**.



2nd Place Winner, [The Way God Made Me](#), Lindale High School (4A)

Traditional animation uses physical (rather than virtual) materials and activities.

- **This includes any film where 100% of the “frames” and their content are created by hand. The medium can be pencil, pen or brush on paper.**
- **The medium can also be hand-drawn images utilizing a pad or other digital drawing device; the key is that there is drawing by hand. A *minimal amount* of digital effects may be added in post-production (effects such as a sparkle, etc.)**

Stop-Motion

Claymation, Lego figures, still object animation, and other stop-motion techniques—where each frame is set up and captured and then laid into a timeline – are considered traditional animation category IF.....

Again, the key is that *each frame* is created manually.



The Struggle Within, State Champion,
Industrial- Vanderbilt High School

Digital or Computer Animation Category



Trust the Door, 3A State Champion,
Ackerly-Sands High School

Animation that involves **using keyframes in a software program, so that the software creates the tweens (intermediate frames)** to create the illusion of motion or change, is considered **digital**.

The use of digital **3D computer modeling** would also place the piece in the digital category.

We realize that there can be hybrids where animation and live action are utilized.

Please consult with the UIL Office for aid in categorizing.

Evaluation:

What are you being judged on?

- **Originality** (the screenplay/story idea)
- **Cinematic storytelling** (how effectively students use the elements of filmmaking – cinematography, audio, mise en scène, editing – to tell the story)
- **Technical execution** (clear audio, proper focus and lighting, clean editing)

The Films submitted to the Festival are previewed, critiqued and ranked by our adjudicators.

Elimination rounds

- Entries will go through a **preliminary round**.
- Depending on the number of entries received in each category, **advancing films could pass through 2-3 several rounds**, culminating with a State Semi-final round to determine the 6 State Qualifiers in each category and conference.
- The **entries advancing to State in each category** will be screened and ranked first through sixth place at the State Festival in Austin on **February 26 and 27, 2025**.
 - Medals and trophies will be awarded for first through third place. Medals and/or plaques for fourth through sixth place.

Common Filmmaking Mistakes

Script

Too much dialogue; expository dialogue; stereotyped characters; unclear story; no story structure.

Video

Poor focus; overexposure; unintentionally shaky camera; “undershooting;” no attention paid to backgrounds

Audio

Background noise; mic too far from actors; audio changing with different camera angles; music overpowering dialogue

Acting

Melodramatic/amateurish; misplaced eye contact

Editing

Lack of meaningful B-roll; B-roll too short; B-roll doesn't flow with story, Shots too short; distracting transitions and effects.

Common Filmmaking Mistakes-Animation

Story

No story structure, or undeveloped story.

Artwork/Design

Anime-derived drawing style without fresh approach.

Audio

Poor music choice; voiceover hard to understand due to poor performance or recording quality.

Trademarked character figures used for stop motion.

Video

No tripod used for stop motion; poor lighting; frames not timed properly for smoothness.

Sample Timeframe

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER: Development and Pre-production

- includes brainstorming, screenwriting, table reads, rewrites, mood boards, casting, finding locations, creating storyboards/shot lists, rehearsals

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER: Filming (and refilming if necessary)

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER: Post-production

- includes reviewing & organizing footage, editing, music scoring, audio dubbing, visual effects, graphics & titles
- **“Intent to Participate” due December 1, 2024**

JANUARY: watch, revise, rewatch, re-revise, get feedback

- **Submission Deadline is January 11, 2025 at 11:59pm CST;**
 - Don't wait until 11:50 pm to start submitting!
 - Exporting can take a long time.

STATE Film Festival
February 26 and 27
UT Austin

Tentative dates

What is YOUR role as a sponsor?

- Provide structure and deadlines
- Give artistic and technical *guidance*
 - Sponsors may appear as an performers, but you shall not assist with the writing, filming or editing.
- Maintain Community Standards & Copyright Compliance
- Help secure locations and actors (can be non-students)
- Acquire and maintain equipment.
- Provide supervision, safety, meals on film sets.
- Grade checks. Film team must be eligible at time of submission.

Inspiration to get started

- Your students may already be **making films on their own** (tik toks) or for their places of worship, or for their A/V, Animation or Journalism classes
- You're already surrounded by **actors, technicians and designers** who love to bring stories to life.
- People in your **community WANT** to help student filmmakers.
- You **don't need expensive equipment to make a film.**

Storytelling is the main objective.

where can I find more resources, Spielberg?

Watch the
2024 State
Finalist Films



UIL Film
Guidebook



**NEW
For
2025**

SPONSORS/JUDGES

Our entry numbers are growing!

As a result, UIL Film sponsors are *strongly encouraged* to assist in judging film entries outside their competition pool.

This year, schools are required to provide a minimum of one film judge for every 3 entries from their schools.

Film sponsors can cover the judging assignments for their school themselves or submit to UIL the names of judges.

A UIL Film Judges training guide and ZOOM workshop will be available in December. Check the [UIL Film Page](#) for more information.

Questions?

Contact the UIL State Theatre Office

Paula Rodriguez

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THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING



Tyler Eval

**We value your
feedback.**
Please complete
conference evaluation
after your last session.



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