TIPS FOR YOUNG FILMMAKERS

1. Assignments/Competitions
   a. Check that you are eligible to enter the competition.
   b. Follow the requested topic or guidelines for assignments and competitions.
   c. Make sure the film stays within stated time limits (if applicable).

2. Planning
   a. Ask friends or family to help.
   b. Scout your location.
      i. Is there a lot of background noise?
      ii. Is the lighting good?
      iii. If shooting outdoors, consider the time of day, weather and other conditions that might impact your video.
      iv. Be sure to obtain permission for your film shoot from the property owner.
   c. Choose a documentary (non-fiction) or narrative (fiction) style.
   d. Schedule locations, interviews and crew in advance.
   e. Write an outline or script for action and dialogue before starting to film.
      i. Think visually, and consider the backgrounds and props required.
      ii. Create a storyboard by drawing each shot on a piece of paper to figure out the framing and to determine the sequence for editing.

3. Shooting
   a. Ensure your cell phone or video recording device is fully charged before filming.
   b. Bring chargers and/or extra batteries.
   c. Determine whether to use landscape or portrait mode for your subject.
   d. Check your subject to ensure that you see everyone/everything within the frame.
   e. Do a test recording and playback to ensure the video and audio are clear.

4. Editing
   a. Take a tutorial to familiarize yourself with your editing software.
   b. Experiment with free online editing software.

5. Audio
   a. Play the audio all the way through to ensure that voices are clear and background noise is minimized.
      i. When editing, use background music and sound effects to your advantage.
      ii. Background music can help with pacing. Choose music that fits with the theme and visuals of your film.
      iii. Consider adding in sound effects to enhance the quality of the audio.
      iv. When sharing your video publicly or in competitions, be sure you have obtained the rights to use the music. The music must be original, in public domain or from a stock music site.

6. Don’t be afraid to make mistakes; that’s what editing is for.