



## 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.