SPRING 2018 CITL FILM CHALLENGE
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This document will be updated as new questions arise. Please direct questions to citl@radford.edu.

How do I get started?
A good place to begin is on the film challenge website (www.radford.edu/citl). There is a quick starter video, as well as additional resources for producing your movie, finding cameras and equipment, tutorials, etc.

What if I receive a challenge item that I don’t know how to do?
Part of the challenge is to find a creative way to make what you’ve been given work. For example, say you get a genre you aren’t familiar with … there are numerous ways to work with any given genre. It doesn’t have to narrowly define your movie – for example, receiving a ‘love’ genre doesn’t necessarily mean you have to make a film about romance; there are many different types and manifestations of love … it could even be scary or action-oriented. The challenge is to find a creative way to do it.

What if I have questions about editing, software, using a camera, etc?
FIRST, you can write citl@radford.edu if you want to set up a time to speak to one of our staff to ask questions, etc.
SECOND, you have a wealth of information on the Internet. YouTube, Vimeo, etc., is full of tutorials on how to edit, shoot, etc.
THIRD, ask around your friends, someone is bound to be familiar with whatever you need to know.

I don’t own any video software – what do I do?
-- If you own a Mac, you have iMovie, it comes standard on every new Mac. If you’ve never noticed it, check your Applications folder. Or, if you have access to a computer lab with Mac computers, chances are you can access iMovie there.

-- If you own a Windows computer: Microsoft ended support for Windows Movie Maker Live in Jan. 2017. Currently there are free and pay options in the Windows App Store: https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/store/apps/windows. Also, if you have access to a Windows computer lab, check to see if it supports video software such as Adobe Premiere Pro.

Take care to back up your work in a public lab – if possible, use external storage for your project.

I don’t own a computer. Are there places on campus I can edit my movie?
Yes. The CITL has a media lab students can use to edit video. Seating is limited but you can reserve time to work as well as store your project there while you’re working on it. Also: any public lab on campus with Apple computers is a place students can edit video
One hitch: since it is a public computer, you can’t really store your movie on it over a period of time as it may get erased, meaning you would want to store your project on an external drive while you’re editing, or edit your movie in a single sitting.

Can I store my movie on my network storage drive while I’m working on it?
Probably not, the files will become too large.

Can I store my movie on a flash drive or external hard drive while I work on it?
A very large flash drive may work, but file access may be a problem. And, read/write times will be sluggish while you are editing. Not the best choice. An external hard drive is fine so long as you always use the same computer to edit. Most video programs are designed to store files on the computer they are installed on. So, you may lose data if you attempt to use more than one computer to edit and move the drive between them.

Do Windows computers in campus labs have video software?
No.

Can I submit a movie I’ve already made?
No.

Can my friends help me?
Yes! It is encouraged to make it a group effort, as you can assign different tasks to different people. In the event you’re entering the challenge for a class grade, just make sure that any help you receive is in the form of actors, composers, etc., and not tasks for which you’re being graded.

Can I use copy-written music?
Multimedia Fair Use Guidelines for students suggests up to 30 seconds of a song for a student film is acceptable. Consider the fact that your film is very short; 30 seconds is quite a lot.

Is there a place to find copyright-free music?

What if I need particular sounds or images in my movie that I’m unable to create?
Creative Commons is the best starting point for this sort of thing: http://search.creativecommons.org.
Also:
Internet Archive: https://archive.org
The Free Sound Project: http://www.freesounds.org
FindSounds: http://www.findsounds.com
Can I use footage from Hollywood films, television shows, commercial programs, Netflix, Hulu, etc.?
No.

Can I use public domain video footage?
Technically use, but given the short time frame of your movie, you really should be shooting all or most of your own footage.

What file format does my final movie need to be in?
Export/Share/Save your movie from your editing software into an HD quality 720p .mp4, .m4v or .mov file.

How should I submit my movie?
Radford University participants should visit the CITL (Walker Hall 275) to submit their film in person from a flash drive, etc., along with their challenge form (which is also your submission form). K12 participants will have an arrangement w/ their instructors to get their videos to the CITL.

What shouldn’t I put my movie on a standard video DVD?
You will lose a great deal of picture quality, as your HD video will be converted to the old SD format. And, in order to screen your movie, we would have to extract the video from the DVD and re-format it, which will further deteriorate the picture quality and may present technical issues that could prevent your movie from being screened.