



High School Competition 2026 Contest Rules

Video

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Columbia State Community College will be hosting the Annual **High School Competition Day on March 20, 2026**. As part of the competition there is a video contest. We hope you will encourage many of your students to become involved in the competition.

This year students can enter the program in **TWO WAYS**. They can prepare and submit a film in **advance**, **OR** student teams/individuals can make a film **that day on site**. Students making films onsite still have to submit a registration form saying they intend to make their film that day. This allows us to plan for how many judges we need and how many entries we will have total and how much time we will have to screen and judge these films. The video contest allows each school to submit up to **3 films TOTAL from 3 separate individuals or teams in either VHS, MP4 (ipod format) or DVD format**. Please note that is a **combined total** of Onsite and Advance films, **NOT** 3 advance and 3 onsite films. Only 3 total films are **allowed** per school. **Please only these formats**. Films may be fiction (drama or comedy) or documentary. The school reserves the right to show the submitted films in a YouTube channel for the general educational knowledge of all visitors to the Columbia State YouTube site.

TIME LIMIT: We ask that **NO individual film exceed 5 minutes in time length**. So if a school submits three films their corporate and complete submission must be under 15 minutes.

ADVANCE FILM: The video contest allows each school to submit up to **3 films in either VHS, VHS-C, MP4 (iPod format) or DVD format**. **We can accept mp4 films on a USB**.

drive for transfer to the college computers for judging and evaluation, if this is more convenient than a DVD format. Please be advised we cannot evaluate WMV or Windows moviemaker or Imovie projects that have not been transferred to a non-platform specific media such as an MP4 or a commercial DVD format. **Please only these formats.** Films may be fiction (drama or comedy) or documentary. Please be advised that the quantity of students is limited to three individuals or three teams per school. Schools may submit a combination of films in advance and onsite but **no more than three films TOTAL from three teams is acceptable.** The deadline for advance films is rigid. **All entries must be submitted to Columbia State Community College by Friday, March 6, 2026, no later.** These films will be judged on the day of the competition along with onsite films.

ONSITE FILM: The video contest allows each school to submit up to **3 films** in either VHS, VHS-C, MP4 (iPod format) or DVD format. **Please only these formats.** Films may be fiction (drama or comedy) or documentary.

Please be advised that the number of students is limited to three individuals or three teams per school. Schools may submit a combination of films in advance and onsite but **no more than three films TOTAL from three teams is acceptable.**

Rules:

1. On the day of the competition, students arrive at 7:30-8am to check in their team and school.
2. Each school individual/team **must have their own** filming/editing/computer/ camera equipment. **Equipment will not be loaned by the college.**
3. Teams/individuals will submit finished films **by 10am** for judging.
4. This means that **films will be shot, edited and submitted to the judges** in one of the acceptable formats (DVD, USB drive/mp4, VHS) by this time.
5. Team/individual names, the name of the project and the name of the school must be submitted with the film on the proper form at the time of submission. Submission forms will be given to teams either in advance with information about the high school competition or can be obtained at check-in the day of the competition, March 21, 2026.
6. All films received in advance and filmed on onsite on **March 20, 2026 will be judged by the judges between 10-12:30pm in room 130 in Hickman** or in other rooms as available. The winners will be announced with other competition winners at 12:30pm. The films will be shown and the public is invited to watch as the films are screened.

Rules for Video Contest:

This contest is an opportunity for students to illustrate skills in film production, video, writing, performing, and producing for the media. Students may work in documentary, fiction/drama, or fiction/comedy style. **Films or intent to produce an onsite film form due to Columbia by March 6, 2026.** We need a week to determine how many entrants are to be judged that day and how many entrants will be filmed that day.

1. **Date (for awards): March 20, 2026.**
2. **Place:** Hickman Building; Room for the competition to be announced at registration
Selected Films will be screened for students and guests at 10am in a room TBA.
3. **Range:** For this competition there are **three types of films**. Documentary or non-fiction film in which filmmakers cover a real event or thesis using real people or fiction film. Fiction may be comical or dramatic in nature. Students should try to stay either comical or dramatic and only mix genres when you need to do so.
4. **Preparation:** Students may film using any cameras or equipment they own to process a film, however, **the film can only be submitted as a: VHS, VHS-C, mp4 (ipod format) or DVD format video. DVDs should be regular DVD format. CDs containing ipod mp4 files are acceptable. These are the only formats we can read. Anything else is unacceptable** (WMP, AVI, RM, RV) and will not be considered.
5. **Length:** Films may be of any length but it is important that the film tell a coherent story or have a clear documentary objective. Unclear films will not be judged.
6. **Judging:** 100 points/10 points possible per criteria. Students will be judged based on these 10 criteria:
 1. Technical skill
 2. Story or documentary subject
 3. Acting (if fiction)/ Selection of shots and images (documentary)
 4. Script
 5. Use of language
 6. Coherence
 7. Relevance or significance
 8. Entertainment value
 9. Overall strength of project
 10. Originality of material/treatment
7. **Awards:** Prizes will be given to the top three student films (there will not be separate Awards for documentary or fiction) according to point totals.

We look forward to having you attend the High School Competition!

Film Competition Entry Form

All films must either be submitted in advance by **3/06/2026** or on the day of competition **3/20/2026 by 10:00 am**.

School: _____

Film 1 title: _____

Team or individual producer.

Film will be submitted by 3/06/2026 YES NO

Film will be produced onsite the day of competition 3/20/2026 YES NO

Film 2 title:

Team or individual producer.

Film will be submitted by 3/06/2026 YES NO

Film will be produced onsite the day of competition 3/20/2026 YES NO

Film 3 title: _____

Team or individual producer.

Film will be submitted by 3/06/2026 YES NO

Film will be produced onsite the day of competition 3/20/2026 YES NO