Gwinnett Library Student Film Festival:

Rules and Judging Rubric

Updated October 26, 2026

Rules for Submission

● All entries must be student-produced and may be a group effort or individual work.
● The Film Festival will be held on Saturday, March 20, 2027 at Gwinnett County Public Library's Snellville branch. To be eligible to win an award, you or a representative for your film must attend the awards ceremony.
● Two film entries are allowed per director.
● Each film must be submitted with a completed entry form and video release form, signed by you (and a parent if you are under 18).
● You must be at least 11 years of age to enter.
● You must submit the name of your school and your grade level/year of study.
● Films must be longer than 1 minute and no longer than 10 minutes, including credits.
● All entries must include credits and an opening title.
● Films must be saved as an MP4 or MOV. Films that we cannot play may be disqualified.
● Each film entry must have been completed after January 1st, 2026.
● Films cannot have been selected for screening at a previous Gwinnett Library Student Film Festival. Films created as part of a Gwinnett Library 48-hour Film Competition are eligible for entry.
● Films may be submitted by co-directors.
● If we are not able to show all of the works submitted, at the Film Festival, then directors will be notified of their film's selection status.
● Films must contain appropriate content for screening in a public space (PG13).
● Films must not infringe third-party's rights and cannot contain the following: obscene material, defamatory statements about any person, company, organization or entity. Films may not invade privacy or other rights of any person, company or entity, and may not in any other way violate applicable laws and regulations.
● Filmmakers must identify the source of all content not created by the filmmakers, including stock images and footage, music, and effects.
● Filmmakers must identify all software used in the creation of the film, including (but not limited to) film editing, sound editing, or image editing software, and websites.
● Use of sound or video clips from other media sources (films, television shows, music videos, etc.) within your submitted work is not permitted unless those clips are in the public domain or you have received written permission from the copyright holder. If you have obtained the rights to use a piece of media, please submit documentation with your film.
● Use of AI is permitted only for categories not found in the Gwinnett Library Student Film Festival Judging Rubric. Areas prohibited include (but may not be limited to) story and scriptwriting, video clip creation, animation, film editing, and sound editing. For further information, see the Judging Rubric below.
● Directors agree that the Gwinnett County Public Library may use still images and clips from their films in any future marketing for Student Film Festivals held by the library.

● In the interest of allowing all films to be seen by festival participants, films may be made available for viewing, after the end of the Gwinnett Library Student Film Festival, online

only from the library website. The library will use privately posted video links on Youtube to accomplish this goal, but the library will not post the videos publicly on Youtube or on any other streaming services.

● Gwinnett Library reserves the right to disqualify any film. Rules violations may result in film disqualification.

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Judging Rubric

Updated October 20, 2026

	-1- Needs Improvement	-2- Approaching Expectations	-3- Meets Expectations	-4- Exceeds Expectations	-5- Outstanding
Cinematography	Camera work is unsteady, blurry, or difficult to see. Camera movement distracts from the storytelling. (Unless clearly intended by the story)	Camera work is steady, but lacks consistency in quality, and very little or no shot variation. Shots may occasionally be confusing.	Camera use is appropriate for the filmmaking style, and does not distract from intended storytelling.	Camera work is clear and well exposed. Camera style is present and contributes to the story. Shot variation is common, and engaging.	Professional camera work for grade level. Including consistent use of camera style, consideration of lighting and color, and uniformity in focus.
Editing/Sound Quality	No evidence of editing is present, or confuses the story and/or sound is difficult to hear, excessively noisy, or absent. (Unless clearly intended by the story)	Editing is present, but limited, or shots may last too long and/or sound is understandable, but may be inconsistent in volume, or may have noise.	Editing is clean and contributes to storytelling and/or sound is mostly clear and does not distract from the film as a whole. Basic titles or transitions in evidence, and formatted appropriately.	Evidence of intentional use of editing to set the pace of the story and/or sound is clear and of a consistent volume and quality. Some noise is still present.	Editing is clean and consistent throughout the film. Editing and transitions are used to advance the story, titles match the mood of the film. Evidence of color grading in higher levels and/or sound is clear, and balanced across entire film.
Story/Writing	Story or Documentary viewpoint is incoherent, meanders, or missing. (Unless clearly intended by the story)	Some evidence of narrative planning, but may still be unclear in its intention. The unfolding of events in the film may be unclear.	Theme, plot, are clear to the viewer. Story is engaging. Documentary clearly presents subjects, but may not have a strong editorial viewpoint.	Storytelling is clear, dialogue or character interactions are natural. Documentary has some evidence of an editorial viewpoint.	Story exhibits a unique viewpoint, contains creative and engaging storytelling. Evidence of clearly planned plot, or documentary footage arranged to tell a story.
Cohesion	The overall presentation is slow, confusing, or disjointed. (Unless clearly intended by the story)	The film is uneven in its presentation. Plot may be difficult to follow, or technical elements may distract from the storytelling.	Technical elements all contribute to the clear telling of the story.	Film is engaging and at times surprising. Technical elements are strong.	All elements of story, editing, and camera work all contribute to the creation of a single strong mood. Creates an emotional response in the viewer.