

Pens to Lens Submission Guidelines

Entry

Any K-12 student in any Central Illinois school district, private school, or home school is invited to submit one screenplay of his or her own making. Students may also elect to write a single screenplay as a group. After the submission deadline, community artists will choose screenplays to produce. Their finished films and other student awards will be presented at a theatrical event at the Art Theater in Champaign.

Format

The screenplay should be 1-5 numbered pages in standard script-writing format. An in-depth look at the screenwriting process, along with a suggested curriculum guide for teachers and storyboard worksheets, can be found at the Pens to Lens website at www.PensToLens.com. Stories containing inappropriate content will not be considered; adhere to your school's code of conduct. The Pens to Lens board reserves the right to exclude any stories that do not comply with these requirements.

Screenplay submissions should be entered in the Submissions form on the website homepage at www.PensToLens.com. The Submissions form will go live on the website the day the competition launches, on February 1st, 2014. When uploading your screenplay in the form, please refrain from including a cover page - if a filmmaker sees your name or other identifying information, they will not be able to choose your screenplay out of fairness to other applicants.

Judging Criteria

Entries will be chosen from each of three age categories: grades K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Entries will be judged based on two sets of criteria:

- (1) Community filmmakers and artists will choose screenplays that they would like to bring to life. Movie poster designers will choose screenplays based upon compelling visual descriptions. Screenplays chosen for films will be creative and understand the practical limitations of filmmaking.
- (2) Writing awards will be given based on writing ability and originality of the screenplay.

In addition to the creative criteria, evaluations of student submissions will be adjusted based on their grade level. While strict adherence to script format is imperative for high school students, and important for junior high students, K-5 students will be evaluated generously. Consult the materials provided ([here for K-5 students](#), [here for grades 6-8](#), and [here for grades 9-12](#)) which are aimed at your students' age level to understand age-specific expectations. Please email info@PensToLens.com with any questions.

All entries must be original and the sole work of the author(s). Submissions that use copyrighted characters or familiar stories will not be considered. Students are welcome to adapt their own work from other projects into screenplays. However, repeat entries from previous Pens To Lens

competitions will not be considered. Assistance from teachers and parents is expected, but the student is responsible for the ideas in the story and the way those ideas are expressed. We encourage proofreading of the stories prior to submission.

Students give filmmakers and Pens To Lens the right to produce their script. Filmmakers will not own student scripts, nor will they make money from the project. Students, and their parent and teacher sponsors if applicable, agree by submitting that they allow the writer's name (specified in the "Writer's Preferred Public Name" field in the submission form) to be used in film credits, and in publicity materials promoting the Pens To Lens Gala and other aspects of the competition. The writer's name will not be used for profit or outside the context of the Pens To Lens screenwriting competition.

Deadline

All stories must be received electronically by 11:59 PM of February 28, 2014. Please submit your screenplay to the form on the homepage of the Pens To Lens website at www.PensToLens.com. The form will be available February 1st through 28th. If you have concerns with submissions, ask your teacher for help or contact info@PensToLens.com.

You should expect a confirmation that your submission was received. If you do not receive a confirmation by March 1st, 2014, immediately email info@PensToLens.com so your script can be included.

Recognition

A community red carpet event will be held at the Art Theater in August 2014. The event will feature the films made from student screenplays, movie posters designed by local artists, and awards for outstanding writers. Watch the Pens to Lens website for details.