



# TOP TIPS FOR YOUNG FILMMAKERS

## APPROPRIATE CONTENT

We share many of the films we receive from young filmmakers on the Into Film website and on our YouTube channel for others to enjoy. Therefore, it is important that the content of your film is appropriate.

It's also worth noting that films that appear to condone or encourage risky behaviours have a limited appeal for many youth film festivals.

**So please keep the following in mind:**

- Avoid swearing and offensive language.
- Avoid showing risky behaviours, such as drug taking, smoking or excessive violence.
- If depicting risky behaviour is part of your story, consider whether it is necessary to depict the behaviour explicitly on screen for the audience to understand what is happening.
- Try to use your creativity to think about how you can explore these issues in a responsible way.

## MUSIC & SOUND EFFECTS

When selecting the music for your film, it is important that you only use songs that you have permission to use. This means you cannot use your favourite One Direction song or any other popular tracks that you like. The process for obtaining permission for copyrighted songs is costly and can take a long time.

- Use one of the many copyright free music libraries online (such as Incompetech or AudioMicro) that allow you to use a wide variety of music tracks in your film projects at no cost.
- Make the most of the musical talents in your film group and compose your own music.
- Soundly is a free and comprehensive sound effects library. Each sound is fully searchable and easy to add to your editing timeline. Sound effects are a brilliant way to emphasise actions and enhance storytelling in your film. [getsoundly.com](https://getsoundly.com)

## LOGOS AND BRANDING

**It is important that you do not include any obvious or deliberate branding or logos in your film.**

- Ask actors to wear neutral clothing, free of any branding or logos such as Nike.
- Do not include close ups of branded items such as mobile phones or computers.
- Avoid close ups of posters, paintings or newspapers/magazines in your film.

## STORY IS VERY IMPORTANT

**It can be very tempting to start filming as soon as you get your hands on a camera. However, taking your time with planning and developing your story will help you create a stronger film.**

- Make a film about something that you are interested in or passionate about.
- Brainstorm your ideas, share with friends and ask for their feedback.
- Create a storyboard to help visualise how the story will play out on film.
- Less is more. A simple story told well can be very effective. A complicated story with little focus could confuse your audience.

## WHO IS YOUR AUDIENCE?

**When developing your film ideas, you should consider who your intended audience is. This will help with the planning and making sure the voice and tone of the film is appropriate for the intended audience.**

- If you want your film to have a wide appeal, make sure the content is appropriate for a family audience.
- Think about what will make your film appeal to other young people.

## SOUND

**One of the most common issues with the films we receive is poor sound quality. This might be due to the equipment used or the choice of shooting location. Good quality sound is as important as the quality of the video footage you capture.**

- Use an external microphone as built in mics on cameras do not always produce quality sound.
- Use headphones to help identify any issues with sound recordings.
- Try to avoid busy or loud areas when filming, especially if you do not have a suitable microphone.

## USE ANY EQUIPMENT

**Filmmaking is now very accessible for most people. You can use whatever equipment you have available to you. At the very least, you need a camera, editing software and lots of enthusiasm.**

- It is possible to make great films using smart phones and tablets and you can also make the most of filmmaking apps available on these devices.
- Borrow equipment from family, friends, your school or youth group.

## USE A TRIPOD OR KEEP THE CAMERA AS STILL AS POSSIBLE

**A tripod offers stability within a shot and once set up, allows the filmmaker to ensure all takes are shot from the same position. This also prevents shaky camera work, which can be off putting for the audience.**

- A good tripod will allow for proper controlled movements to produce smooth pans (camera moving horizontally) and tilts (camera moving vertically) and avoid unnecessary camera shakes.
- If you do not have a tripod, rest against a wall and keep your arms still during the shoot.
- You can rest your camera on a flat surface to ensure you achieve a steady shot.

## LENGTH OF FILM

**You can submit films that are up to ten minutes in duration (including titles and credits). However, Into Film would encourage you to submit shorter films. If made well, a two minute film can be much more engaging than a ten minute film.**

- Films lasting one minute and under are of interest to Into Film as they can be screened in front of features as part of the Into Film Festival.
- Films lasting three minutes and under have a wider appeal to film festivals around the world.
- Don't be scared to cut out parts of your film if you think they don't work. If you are unsure, the audience probably will be too.

**For more information visit**

[intofilm.org/fotm](https://intofilm.org/fotm)

**Filmmaking resources**

[intofilm.org/filmmaking](https://intofilm.org/filmmaking)