



2011 Technical FAQ

Does the maximum length of the film include credits?

No. Your film has to be 4-7 minutes long plus a max 1 minute of credits.

Are credits in the beginning permissible and do they count against the credit time limit?

Opening credits are allowed and do not count against the credit time limit. They do count against the seven minutes of film though.

Are we allowed to have footage under our closing credits?

Yes, but the narrative must end before the closing credits begin. Outtakes or bonus scenes are allowed. But if we removed the credits, the movie should still feel complete.

May we include in our film an animated logo for our team that was made outside of the 48 hours?

Yes, provided that it begins the film and is shorter than five seconds long. Note that the logo does count against the 7 minute running time of the film.

Can I film outside of Melbourne?

Yes! The only requirements are that you have a representative from your team at the Kick Off and that you deliver your film to the Drop Off.

We are limited to using two cameras. Does a still camera count? What about having a back-up camera?

A still camera does not count against the two camera limit. You may have a third camera on standby in the event that one of your cameras goes down. However, you may not have more than two shooting cameras. (Two are shooting and a third is set up and ready to go awaiting word that one of the first cameras is finished. This is not allowed.)

I know that stock film and video footage is not permitted. What about stock photos?

If you have the rights to them, then stock photos are permitted. In other words, you may use photos not taken during the 48 hour time period.

Is animation allowed?

Yes. You may use still drawings created in anticipation of the Project. You may not use animations created ahead of time. That is, all "inbetweening" must be done during the 48 hour time period. Downloading existing images and 3D objects is permissible, provided that you have full and permanent rights to them. Again, only animation created during the 48 hour period is allowed. As with a live action film, you must have all rights to the animation you submit.

What about special effects? What's allowed?

You may use special effects that involve any of the allowed elements: still photographs, footage shot during the 48 hours, or footage rendered during the 48 hours. However, special effects that involve footage not shot during the 48 hours are prohibited.

Which mediums can I hand in?

We are only accepting MiniDV tapes, Memory Sticks and Data DVDs that contain a QuickTime (see QuickTime Instructions).

We have recently allowed hard drives to be handed in, however, a word of caution is advised as last year we had corrupt files handed in. It is advised to hand in **one extra copy** on another medium as a backup.



In which format will the films be screened?

We will screen in an aspect ratio of 16:9. So if you shoot in 4:3 please pillar-box it.

Does every team member have to sign the Team Leader's Agreement?

No, only the team leader needs to sign it (and turn it in at the Kick Off). However, **everyone** who works on the film must sign the **Liability Waiver form** and a **Talent Release form**.

On the Wrap Up Form, what is a logline?

It's a very short, catchy summary of the story, usually not longer than one sentence.

For more information visit; <http://www.48hourfilm.com/filmmakers/loglines.php>

If we are working with someone out of state, can they fax or email us the release form?

Yes, but you must provide us original copy before your film is screened.

We want to use public domain or royalty-free music or photographs. What do we do about the Music Release Form or the Materials Release Form?

Have the person who has the rights to the music or materials sign the release form. In the case of royalty-free materials, this is the person who purchased them. In the case of public domain materials, this could be anyone on the team. Please also include documentation that shows your rights to the music or materials, such as a license, a purchase receipt, or a statement by the author. Note: You may only use materials if the license granted to you allows for all forms of distribution.

Do I need a Location Release to shoot on public property?

No, but you may need a permit. We do not require you to prove to us that you received a permit, but you may be stopped from shooting or even fined if you do not have one. Check with the City of Melbourne prior to shooting.

If the "required character" is audible off screen—like on the other end of a phone—does that count?

No, we must actually see the required character in some way on the screen. Remember, he/she need not be the star of the film, just make an appearance.

Does the required character have to say his name or wear a name tag?

As long as the audience can infer who the character is, he/she doesn't need to be further identified.

Should we shoot in HD? Should we shoot in widescreen? Should we use surround sound?

Yes. In Melbourne this year, we will most likely be screening the films in High Definition. Please make sure that you adhere to the format requirements found in the **Quicktime Instructions**.

Do I need to subtitle my film if it's in a language most people in my city don't understand?

No. However, if the judges in your city cannot understand your film, they are less likely to give it awards. The Best of Melbourne film will be judged in English, so if they are not already in English, they should be subtitled by the team once they have been named Best Film of Melbourne.

My file doesn't fit on my flash drive. What do I do?

It might be that you've got the drive formatted for the wrong file system. Generally drives come formatted with the FAT32 file system, which cannot store files larger than 2GB.

Important

You have to supply

- 'Team Leader's Agreement' at the Kick Off Event
- All other documentation with your film at the Drop Off Event

If not we cannot accept your entry as eligible for prizes and awards.