

IHTD Youth Film Festival VIDEO Toolkit

So you want to make a video? In this guide, you'll find quick tips for getting started with your video and instructions on how to submit it to the IHTD film festival. Just follow the five basic steps outlined below and you'll be producing your own IHTD film in no time.



5 Basic Steps for Making a Great Video:

1. Plan it.

2. Film it.

3. Edit it.

4. Submit it.

5. Share it.

Plan it.

Get your ideas down before you start filming.

What will you say in your video? Here are some possible prompts to get you thinking:

- *If I had a trillion dollars....*
- *A trillion dollars for war or our communities?*
- *What does a trillion look like?*
- *Dear President Obama and Members of Congress....*
- *What the average person does NOT know about how our federal budget is spent...*
- *My vision for the future is...*

What will your video look like? Here are some suggested approaches to making your video:

- *Write poetry, spoken word or a song*
- *Visualize your ideas in a short skit or dance*
- *Make a commercial promoting your 'national priorities'*
- *Interview your family or neighbors*

Pick a good location.

Make sure you have enough light.

**But if you're filming indoors, try to avoid filming with a window behind you. It will usually end up looking something like this...*



Pay attention to background noises. Pick somewhere quiet, so that you can get good audio without distracting noises (like air conditioners, phones ringing, or other people talking).

Think about what's in the background. Do you really want a blank wall? Or could you use the images/location in the background of your video to make your message stronger?

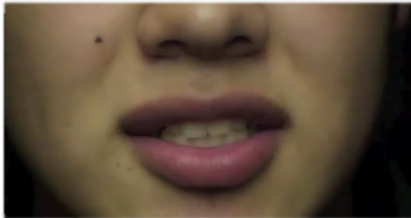
Plan it.

Be Creative!

Plan to take different kinds of [shots](#). Variety makes a video much more interesting to watch than a single ‘talking head.’

Here are a couple examples of different kinds of shots you can use in your video:

- Extreme close-up shot



shows intense emotion

- Close-up shot



shows emotion

- Medium shot



standard for interviews

- Wide shot



shows the environment

Another option is to create a [storyboard](#) to draw out your shots before filming them. Here's an example:



1. Wide shot of both Sarah and Callum illustrating where they are and what the film is about
Props: Megaphone, Camera Board



2. Close-up of Sarah speaking directly to camera
Script: Sarah 'One thing you must remember...'



3. Low angle camera pointing up at Callum
Props: Moustache, Paintbrush
Script: Callum 'Oops! Sarah is right...'

Film it.

Here are some quick tips to make filming as fun and smooth as possible:

- Make sure that everyone is ready (actor, cameraperson, director) and knows their role before you start filming.
- Make sure the shot looks right before hitting 'record'
- To make things flow smoothly, try using language like 'quiet on the set,' 'ready?' 'roll camera' 'action' and 'cut' when filming. These are cues that the director can use to make sure that everyone knows what's happening and when.
- Rehearse and re-take shots as much as you want!

Edit it.

Here are some quick tips to edit your footage into a finished, polished piece:

- Use whatever software you have available to you (iMovie, Windows Media Maker and Final Cut Pro are all examples).
- Find a friend who likes to edit videos and get them to help you! This is a great way to involve more people in your project and raise awareness. It can also save you a lot of time and frustration if you don't have experience with editing.
- Use music to add emotion and intensity to your video. But make sure that you can always hear whoever is speaking over the music. (In video lingo, this is called checking your audio levels)
- Consider including a title at the beginning and credits at the end of your video.





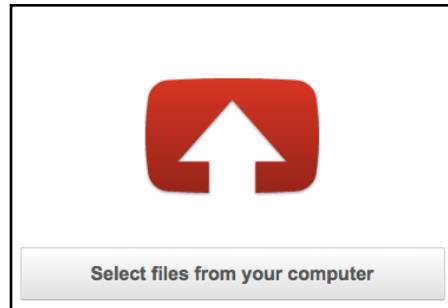
Submit it.

Done with your video? Send it to us!

Fill out the [registration page](#) on ihtd.org. *If you are under 18 years of age, be sure to print out the pdf version of the page, and have a parent or guardian sign the media release at the bottom. Then snail mail it to us!*

Upload your video.

1. Go to www.youtube.com
2. Sign in to your account (or create a new one)
3. Click "Upload" in the top right corner
4. Click this button and select your exported video file. 
5. While your video is uploading, edit the title and description to match your video.
6. Be sure to use the tag "IHTDfilms2013." This is how we will find your video.
7. Save your changes! 



Tags



Share it.

Here are some quick tips for using social media effectively:

- Post the link to your video on a variety of social media sites.
- Encourage others to share it with their networks.
- Write comments on related blog posts or articles, and include a link to your video.
- Connect with IHTD on Facebook and Twitter!



 @IHTDfilms

 'If I Had a Trillion Dollars' fan page