HOW DO I SUBMIT MY SCREENPLAY?
Please use the form available at tinyurl.com/Screenplay1718Entry

IS THIS WHERE I SUBMIT FINISHED FILMS?
No, this is for screenplays only. Submit completed films to tinyurl.com/asff18entry

WHAT ARE THE KEY DATES FOR 2017-2018?
-December 19*, 2017 11pm: early-bird submission deadline for ASFF screenplay contest.

-January 8, 2018 11pm: final submission deadline.

-January 29, 2018: Finalists announced (official selection for public forum).

-February 12: 'Screenplay Forum': festival of live readings of finalists' scripts by professional and student actors; Audience Q&A and feedback; discussions of your screenplays with judges and audience; prizes given. (Host venue: H-B Woodlawn auditorium, 4100 Vacation Lane)

*Note Scholastic Creative Writing contest deadline is **Dec. 14**: Why not submit your screenplay? http://www.artandwriting.org/what-we-do/the-awards/categories/#32

WHAT ARE THE RULES OF SUBMISSION?

1) Any APS Middle or High schooler may submit a screenplay to the contest, as long as we receive your application by January 12, 2018 at 11pm. (*Earlybird deadline: Dec. 19, 2017, 11pm*).

2) Middle and high school submissions will be judged separately from each other.

3) Application is free, and you may submit as many screenplays as you want (but must start a new application for each submission).

4) You CAN go back and edit your submission form (as long as you copy and save your individual submission form's url).

5) You ARE allowed to share with a teacher, parent or peer to get their feedback and integrate their suggestions before submitting.

6) All contact, email and cell information you provide will be kept private and used only for communication related to the Arlington Student Filmfest.   Please give us accurate information so that we can send you updates on PR, venue, prizes, etc. Help spread the word about the event.

Please contact us and keep up with us at:

ARLINGTONSTUDENTFILMFEST@GMAIL.COM   FACEBOOK.COM/ARLINGTONSTUDENTFILMFEST

TWITTER.COM/FILMFESTAPS   INSTAGRAM.COM/ARLINGTONSTUDENTFILMFEST/

WHAT ARE THE PRIZES?

Prizes will be certificates, gift cards, and for top winners: production support (casting, crew, equipment and financial assistance when applicable) to help screenplays be produced as films.

HOW SHOULD I FORMAT MY SCREENPLAY SO THE JUDGES CAN READ IT MOST EASILY?

The screenplay your submit will be the main part of this application evaluated by the judges.

1) You will upload and SHARE your document to us directly or by a link you put in the google form. Be sure to give us viewing privileges at arlingtonstudentfimlfest@gmail.com

2) You CAN submit your screenplay to other contests as well. Not all screenwriting contests are for all ages (or affordable) but you can start by looking for lists of contests like the one at https://www.moviebytes.com/contests.cfm....or by entering your film (by December 14) in the Scholastic writing contest at http://www.artandwriting.org/what-we-do/the-awards/categories/#32

3) Screenplay should be 1-15 pages in length. (Less is often more: a 5-page screenplay can make a wonderfully producible, watchable short film!)

4) Font should be 12 point size; courier or similar 'typewriter' style font.

5) We have some flexibility to consider different formats and lengths but reserve the right to eliminate entries based on legibility or length falling too far outside these stated guidelines.

6) Screenplay should follow the Celtx* or similar standard screenplay format; https://screenplayreaders.com/celtx/

7) You CAN format your screenplay without the use of software--there are lots of great tip videos and websites out there to help—including at our ever-growing resource page: https://sites.google.com/site/arlingtonstudentfilmfest/tutorials/pre-production-screenplays

 —but there is software designed to do it for you can save you time. *Celtx is one of many great screenwriting apps available to streamline and standardize formatting. There is a free online version at celtx.com (if you create an account) and the older downloadable desktop version is still available if you scroll down to the bottom of the page at: https://screenplayreaders.com/celtx/

HOW WILL THE JUDGES EVALUATE THE SCREENPLAY?

The table below shows some of what we're looking for in GOOD screenplays, and OUTSTANDING screenplays.

Many of these expectations are most relevant for fictional/narrative screenplays, and not all of these qualities apply to all narrative work (for example, comedies don't always have a message as their objective, and adaptations aren't always trying for originality).

Still, this table will help you understand how you are evaluated and help the judges describe how they see your work.

Inspired (Outstanding)	Emerging Talent (Good)
PRESENTATION (Outstanding) No typos; no grammar, spelling or punctuation errors. No errors in formatting or writing conventions. Script is ready to hand to a director to start pre-production right away: ready for transformation into a shooting script, development of a shot list.	PRESENTATION (Good) Script has few GSP errors and typos; few format errors. Script needs another draft before it can be handed to a director (other than the author) so that the director can fully understand it and begin preproduction right away.
CHARACTERS & CHARACTERIZATION (Outstanding) Characterization of all characters can be described as: real, honest, compelling, empathetic, complex, vivid. All characters develop throughout screenplay the way real people do over time. All characters have a clear arc. Characters complement each other (work with and against each other, fit in the same universe). Characters reveal clear relationships to each other. Characters reveal conflict, whether inside themselves or with other characters.	CHARACTERS & CHARACTERIZATION (Good) Some central characters can be described as real, honest, compelling, empathetic, complex, vivid. Some Characters develop throughout screenplay. Some characters have a clear arc. Characters are generally understandable and believable.
DIALOGUE (Outstanding) Characters speak in distinct ways from each other (vocabulary, tone, style, personality) that define who they are for the audience. Characters use dialogue to advance their objectives. Characters mean more than one thing when they speak, whether they consciously know it or not; subtext is evident.	DIALOGUE (Good) Characters speak in a believable way; characters exchange greetings, feelings, ideas, views, desires with each other using words. The screenwriter uses dialogue to advance the story, provide exposition, and add depth . The screenwriter's style is consistent from one character to another.
PERSONAL VOICE, DISTINCT STYLE (Outstanding) The voice of the screenwriter is distinct and can be described as specific; original; fresh; authentic; compelling; riveting. Presents genre conventions in new and interesting ways or even subverts conventions.	PERSONAL VOICE, DISTINCT STYLE (Good) Generally original and unique. The script is written in one distinct style, is consistent and reflects understanding of genres, including what genre it fits in.

Inspired (Outstanding)	Emerging Talent (Good)
VISUALS: APPROPRIATE AND SPECIFIC TO FILM (Outstanding) Visual Detail, use of visual elements and details of non-verbal action work to tell your story as much or more than dialogue. The screenplay leaves the viewer feeling that the story could only have been told through film.	VISUALS: APPROPRIATE AND SPECIFIC TO FILM (Good) Writing and content reflect knowledge of filmmaking, and allow for creative opportunities in production and post-production. Conventions of film are taken into account and used to advance story, including filmic elements such as location and the use of close details
RESEARCH AND ACCURACY (Outstanding) Screenplay reveals expertise in subject matter. Screenplay may even present more than one perspective, particularly on controversial content.	RESEARCH AND ACCURACY (Good) Screenplay reveals some background knowledge of the film's subject matter.
STORYTELLING (Outstanding) Screenplay builds to a strong conflict and ends with appropriate resolution. Pacing and timing are evident from reading the screenplay. Screenplay 'transports' us to the world of the characters and story, and it is a specific world. We're so consumed with characters, plot and world of story that we never notice the seamless structure. We are moved or otherwise profoundly affected by the outcome of the story. The storytelling structure subverts expectations and surprises the audience. Mastery of the classic arc is revealed either by a perfect use of that convention, or the subversion of that convention to surprise the audience.	STORYTELLING (Good) Solid/Clear beginning, middle and end. Characters and conflict are set up well, and then develop. Story is engaging and/or suspenseful story. Escalating stakes build to appropriate climax so that arc is shaped in a classic, conventional manner.
THEME/ GUIDING IDEA OR MESSAGE (Outstanding) A theme, message or guiding idea is presented in an original and artful manner with the power to make the audience rethink the problem presented or even their own views.	THEME/ GUIDING IDEA OR MESSAGE (Good) A clear controlling idea lies at the heart of the story. There is a clear theme or message communicated.