

What is the Collaborative Film Project?

Bringing together all you have encountered during the film course (including films and filmmakers encountered, concepts and contexts explored, and skills and techniques acquired), students at HL work collaboratively to plan and create an original completed film.

Students work in **core production teams** of two to four students for this project, with each individual writing a project report that justifies the creative choices made in order to convey meaning in one **film production role** and reflects on their collaborative contribution to the project.

The main focus of this task is on the nature of collaboration throughout the creative process and on the individual student's ability to support and effectively contribute to the successful realization of the group's agreed intentions.

What do I do?

In a group of 2 to 4, students you will produce a seven (7) minute film. You work in one film role. Individually, you will produce a 2000-word project report.

The available roles for this project are:

Cinematographer, Director, Writer, Editor, Sound Designer

What am I doing this summer to prepare for it?

In short, following this guide to brainstorm, research, and plan in preparation of being placed in groups for the 7 minute collaborative film. Follow the steps outlined below and then use the information gathered to complete a 5-8 minute presentation explaining why you want to work in the two film roles you've chosen to focus on, what kind of film you hope to make, and what you're planning to focus on as specific intentions as a filmmaker, in the two chose roles.

1. Brainstorm and Research to answer the following questions:

- What film roles have you already worked in?
- What film roles (pick 2 from the 5 above) do you feel are your strength? Why?
- What are your favorite films?
- What kinds of films do you most enjoy watching? Why?
- What genres of films do you enjoy watching the most?
- Of the film movements we studied last year, which did you enjoy the most? Why?
- What interests you most about film?
- Why are you HLing in film
(“I have to” or any variation of this response will be marked wrong, dig deeper)
- Who are your favorite filmmakers?
- Who are your favorite filmmakers in the two film roles you've chosen?

2. Preliminary Research and Practice

At this point you should have two chosen film roles you plan to focus on.

- Research these roles and capture information on the following for EACH role in an annotated bibliography (at least 4 sources each, films used for clips can count as up to 2 sources):
 - What responsibilities does this role have in each production phase?
Hint: This information lives in your Navigating IB Film Binder, which is a great starting point
 - Identify a filmmaker for each of these roles to research and screen at least on film, ideally two, by this filmmaker. Capture the following
 - What are they known for in the identified film role?
 - What of their style or work would you want to emulate in your film? Why?
 - When watching their body of film work with a critical eye for the chosen film role, what stands out to you?

For example: You might look at angles and movement for a cinematographer. You might look at transitions, continuity, pacing, special effects for an Editor.

3. Skill Development and Research

What skills do you need to research, develop, and/or practice ahead of fulfilling this role in the HL Collaborative Film project? Research these. Practice these.

- Assemble a reel demonstrating 30 seconds of practice of at least two skills, one for each role.

For example: As cinematographer you might practice a tracking shot or a birds-eye view angle (these are examples, yours should be specific to YOUR intentions). An editor might practice a specific transition, pacing, color grading, a montage...

4. Team Work and Collaboration

For the Collaborative Film assessment you are assessed on your ability to collaborate. To help prepare for this, complete the following questions:

- How does communication impact team effectiveness?
- What do you enjoy about group work?
- What do you think is the biggest challenge for group work?
- Why should other students want to work with you?

5. Assemble your Pitch Presentation

Think of your presentation as a Pitch. This is your – Why You Want Me On Your Team As [Insert film roles here] Pitch. The presentation should be no more than 8 minutes in length and should include:

1. The two roles you are pitching yourself for (yes, you may really want one over the other but you HAVE to consider two) and
 - a. why you think these roles are the best fit for you on this project
 - b. how you will contribute to the film project, in each phase of production, in this role
 - c. what your specific filmmaker intentions will be in each of these roles (Note: SPECIFIC to the role – be the best cinematographer I can be does not fly – highlight tension and mystery using low key lighting and shadows is much better)
 - d. Remember those filmmakers your researched? Teach us about them and show a short clip (30 seconds or less) highlighting a hallmark of their style or skill in the specific film role.
 - e. Remember the skill practice? Include both of these too – tell us how you researched the skill, practiced it, and why its useful/creative/a skill to showcase.
2. A little about the kind of movie you want to make – think genre, style, or a particular filmmaker.
3. What you think makes a successful collaborative team

You will present your presentation during the first week of class. You will turn in all of your preliminary work (questions, research, brainstorming, etc from steps 1 -4) on Schoology (I will create a place to do so the first week of school or as soon as I have access to the course) or in the class inbox. We will use presentations as a way to form collaborative film groups. Whatever role is not filled in your group becomes a secondary, collaborative role for EACH group member.