

SKILLS ONTARIO QUALIFYING TV & VIDEO Q&A

1) Are we allowed to use white background (for titles)?

Yes, using a white background for titles is permissible

2) Are titles permitted to have a drop shadow?

Yes, you can use a drop shadow for your titles

3) Are stabilizers allowed?

Yes, you can use a stabilizer as part of your camera kit. This includes Gimbals. No tracks or cranes

4) Does slow-motion count as an in-camera effect?

Yes, it does. Please do not use (in-camera) slow motion. The scope document is clear about this, and it also states, "Teams will be allowed to only use cuts, titles, freeze frame and dissolves". Try to focus the creativity in your story on the script and camera composition only.

The Qualifying Competition differs from SOC (provincials) and SCNC (nationals) Competitions. At provincials and nationals, they allow ANY and ALL effects including slow-motion and retiming and colour correction

5) Is lunch served in the contest room or a cafeteria area?

A basic lunch is provided and served in the contest room.

6) Is the Skills Ontario logo an exemption from the Clothing Requirements?

Yes (and school logo) Competitors are to be dressed in a clean and appropriate manner. Competitors are not permitted to wear clothing with logos or printing. The exception to this rule is the logo of the school or school board the competitor is representing or the Skills Canada/Ontario logo. Corporate logos or names are not permitted on a competitor's clothing.

7) Do you want us to make a Treatment, or story board and Production Brief ?

Only the Production Brief is required. It must be created in advance and brought with competitor teams to the competition. Provincials and Nationals scopes do not require the Production brief to be made in advance.

8) Is there somewhere where students can download the Production template?

Yes, on the [Skills website](#) under the TV & Video Qualifying scope

9) Are we okay to bring a video camera of our choice and few lenses?

There are no rules or stipulations as to cameras. iPhone is an acceptable recording device.

As for lenses. On page 6 of the Qualifying scope it does say "NO OTHER EQUIPMENT INCLUDING: DRONES, LIGHTING GEAR, AUDIO MIXERS OR SPECIAL LENSES ARE ACCEPTABLE. NO IN-CAMERA EFFECTS ARE PERMITTED. THE USE OF UNACCEPTABLE EQUIPMENT OR EFFECTS MAY RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION."

Provincial and National allow two cameras (including whatever recording device you use). There is no limit on the number or type of lenses.

10) Can you expand on "no special lenses" allowed? What exactly?

No fisheye, wide angle, macro, telephoto, anamorphic, or any specialty lens. Again, all participants are encouraged to keep the creativity in the storytelling, camera composition and sequence of shots.

11) Are students allowed to colour grade footage in their editing software? If so, what is not accepted as far as colouring effects used?

Qualifying Competition: If students have time to colour grade within their editing software e.g. Adobe Premiere it will be acceptable. We encourage all participants to put the creativity into the storytelling and shot composition.

“No in camera effects” means the footage should be recorded “clean”. No filters, no slo-mo or time lapse or speed ramping, no shutter effects etc. Participants should only white balance at each location and shoot clean footage.

Provincial Competition: allow any postproduction effects. No limit on grading.

National Competition: Marks at the National level are given for consistency in look -including whether a team should have “fixed” the footage they choose to include.

12) Are students allowed to bring props that emit light?

The Qualifying scope document states clearly, no lighting gear permitted. If you have a prop that emits light, and that light is used to illuminate a scene your team will be disqualified.

Provincial Competition: We do allow lighting gear at the Provincials and Nationals -provided it is camera mounted or handhellogd. We do this to avoid trip hazards of stands and cords on the competition floor.

13) Could you please give some specific examples about what is allowed for AI use and what is not allowed?

AI parameters: no AI generative footage or images can be used but use of AI is approved for postproduction and script writing purposes. Competitors must cite AI sources and how AI was used in their production briefs, before they submit them at the end of the contest.

14) For the TV and Video production competition, are we allowed to use B-Roll/Stock Footage from the Internet, or are we only allowed to use what we are able to record on the day of the event?

All TV & Video competitor footage should be original and shot and recorded by competitors during the competition only. There is no B-Roll/Stock Footage allowed. Same rule applies for Provincials and Nationals competitions.

15) In the production brief, one of the questions is "Innovative Solutions to Problems". Could you please elaborate on what innovative solutions are? How would we know what solutions we have to problems, if we haven't started the competition.

The Qualifying production brief is the same template that is used at the Provincial competition for TV & Video. For the advancing competitions, the brief is filled out during the competition.

The Qualifying production brief, which must be filled out in advanced might involve planning ideas teams the had to adapt be able to execute the production in the time allotted or other foreseen limitations that require planning a head of time.

Innovative solutions to problems include all the "plan B" stuff around production and could be things like:

- Coming up with creative filming techniques given the technical requirements/limitations (like in camera effects)
- Solutions to possible weather conditions if planning to film outside
- Planning for, building, bringing props in support of the video's messaging

With most productions you can anticipate potential problems. If competitors don't think there will be any, they can say so in their production brief.

For the Production brief in the advancing levels, teams are encouraged to explain to the judges why they made certain choices, did something a certain way or to show off their ingenuity and mimicking real life productions where stuff goes wrong all the time and you have to deal with it. The Innovative Solutions description is an opportunity for teams to show off their innovative thinking, planning and ability to trouble shoot to the judges, for issues and problem solving that may not be obvious.