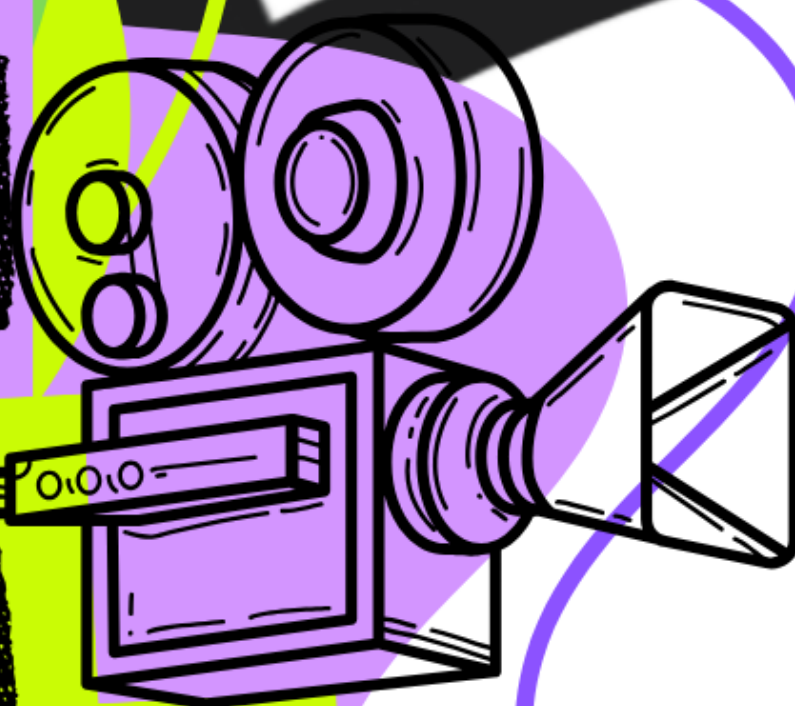




**BIG
SCREEN**



**BIG
IDEA**



**YOUNG CREATIVE [7-18YRS]
FILM COMPETITION**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



**EVERY GREAT FILM STARTS
WITH ONE BIG IDEA.**

IMAGINE IT.

CREATE IT.

SHARE IT.

**YOUR STORY STARTS
HERE.**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



BROUGHT TO YOU BY



WELCOME TO

BIG SCREEN BIG IDEA

Every story begins somewhere...

Before the lights.

Before the cameras.

Before the actors.

Before anyone presses record.

Every great film starts with one thing...

AN IDEA!

It might arrive while you're walking to school.

While you're drawing in a sketchbook.

Talking with friends.

Listening to a family story.

Exploring your neighbourhood.

Or simply asking yourself...

"What if...?"

What if your favourite place hid an incredible secret?

What if tomorrow changed everything?

What if the story only you can imagine became a film?

That's where creativity begins.

And that's exactly what **Big Screen, Big Idea** is all about.

Your imagination is the most important thing you need.

You don't need expensive cameras.

You don't need special equipment.

You don't need to have made a film before.

You just need curiosity.

Creativity.

And a story you're excited to tell.

Whether you love writing...

Drawing...

Acting...

Photography...

Animation...

Making videos on your phone...

Or dreaming up brilliant ideas...

This challenge is for you.



CHOOSE HOW TO TELL YOUR STORY

Every filmmaker has their own way of creating.

Some start by writing.

Some begin with sketches and photos.

Some head straight outside with a camera.

However you like to create, there's a place for your ideas.

You can enter the Big Screen, Big Idea challenge by creating one or all of the following:

- **A Script**

Write the words that bring your story to life.

- **A Storyboard**

Draw your film scene by scene.

- **A Trailer**

Create a short teaser that makes everyone want to see more of your film.

There isn't a "right" way to tell a story.
There is only **your** way.

What makes a great story?

A great story doesn't have to be huge.
Sometimes the smallest idea becomes the biggest adventure.
For example: A lost clown fish.

Maybe it's about...

A mysterious letter.
A forgotten tunnel.
A family memory.
A superhero who lives next door.
A talking cat.
A strange sound in the woods.
A hidden world beneath Wakefield.
Or something nobody has ever imagined before.

If it makes people laugh...

Think...

Wonder...

Or feel something...

You're already onto something special.



YOUR STORY STARTS NOW.

Film Wakefield believes every young person has a story worth telling.

Big Screen, Big Idea has been created to celebrate young imagination and encourage the next generation of filmmakers, writers, artists and creative thinkers.

This is **your** chance to experiment.
To be curious.
To try something new.
To discover what you can create.

Who knows?
The idea you have today could become the film everyone wants to watch tomorrow.
So...
Keep turning the page.
Let's make something amazing!

WHY ENTER?

Because your ideas matter.

Every film you've ever loved started with someone having an idea and deciding to share it.

Big Screen, Big Idea is your chance to do exactly that.

Whether you're already making videos, writing stories, drawing characters, or trying filmmaking for the very first time, this challenge is about creativity, imagination and having a go.

WHAT CAN I WIN?

- Your work showcased at the Film Wakefield Networking event at the WX on Thursday 24th September to industry professionals and emerging artists.
- FREE entry to the Film Wakefield Film Festival 2027
- An episode on our Film Wakefield Podcast all about you and your winning entry!
- A Big Screen, Big Idea trophy & Certificate to celebrate your achievement.
- Big Screen, Big Idea Merchandise
- You might discover a talent you never knew you had!

“The most exciting thing about filmmaking is that nobody starts as an expert. Everyone starts with an idea.”



CHOOSE YOUR CHALLENGE

How do you like to tell stories?

Every filmmaker works differently. Some write first. Some draw first. Some grab a camera and start creating.

Choose the challenge that feels most exciting to you.

**THERE'S NO LIMIT TO YOUR
CREATIVITY. IF YOU WANT TO DO
THEM ALL - GO FOR IT!**

WRITE A SCRIPT.

Love stories, characters and dialogue?

Write a scene or short film that brings your imagination to life.

Perfect for future writers, directors and storytellers.

CREATE A STORYBOARD

Think in pictures?

Plan your film using drawings, sketches, photos or digital images.

Perfect for artists, designers and visual thinkers.

MAKE A TRAILER

Want to get filming?

Create a 30–90 second trailer that teases your story and leaves the audience wanting more.

Perfect for future filmmakers, actors and content creators.

CHALLENGE DEADLINE:

You've got until

FRIDAY 28TH AUGUST

to get creative and accept the challenge.



FIND YOUR STORY

DID YOU KNOW...

Wakefield is made up of all of these places!

Wakefield City
Castleford
Pontefract
Featherstone
Knottingley
Normanton
Ossett
Horbury
Hemsworth
South Elmsall
South Kirkby
Ackworth
Altofts
Crofton
Outwood
Sandal
Stanley
Walton
West Bretton
Wrenthorpe

That's lots of places to explore for inspiration!

DIRECTOR'S TIP:

Don't wait for the perfect idea.

Write down **10 ideas**, even the silly ones.

Very often, the most exciting stories are the ones that surprise you.

Inspiration is everywhere.

You don't have to travel far to find a great film idea.

Some of the best stories begin with places we see every day.

Look around the Wakefield District.

Look around your neighbourhood.

Look around your life.

What could inspire a film?

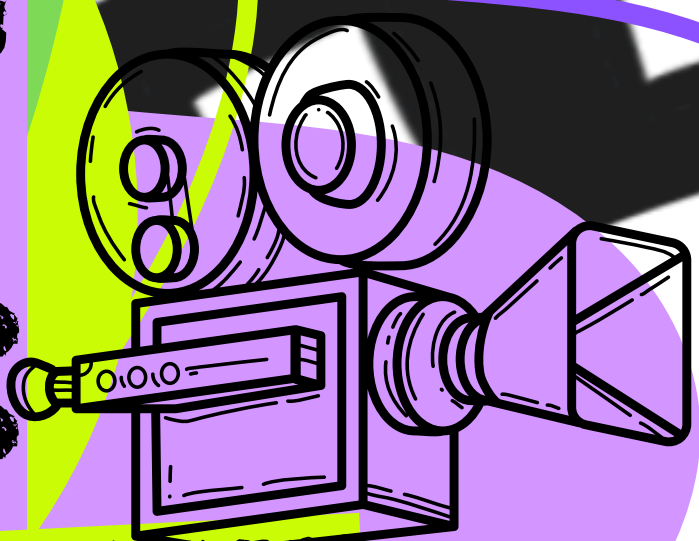
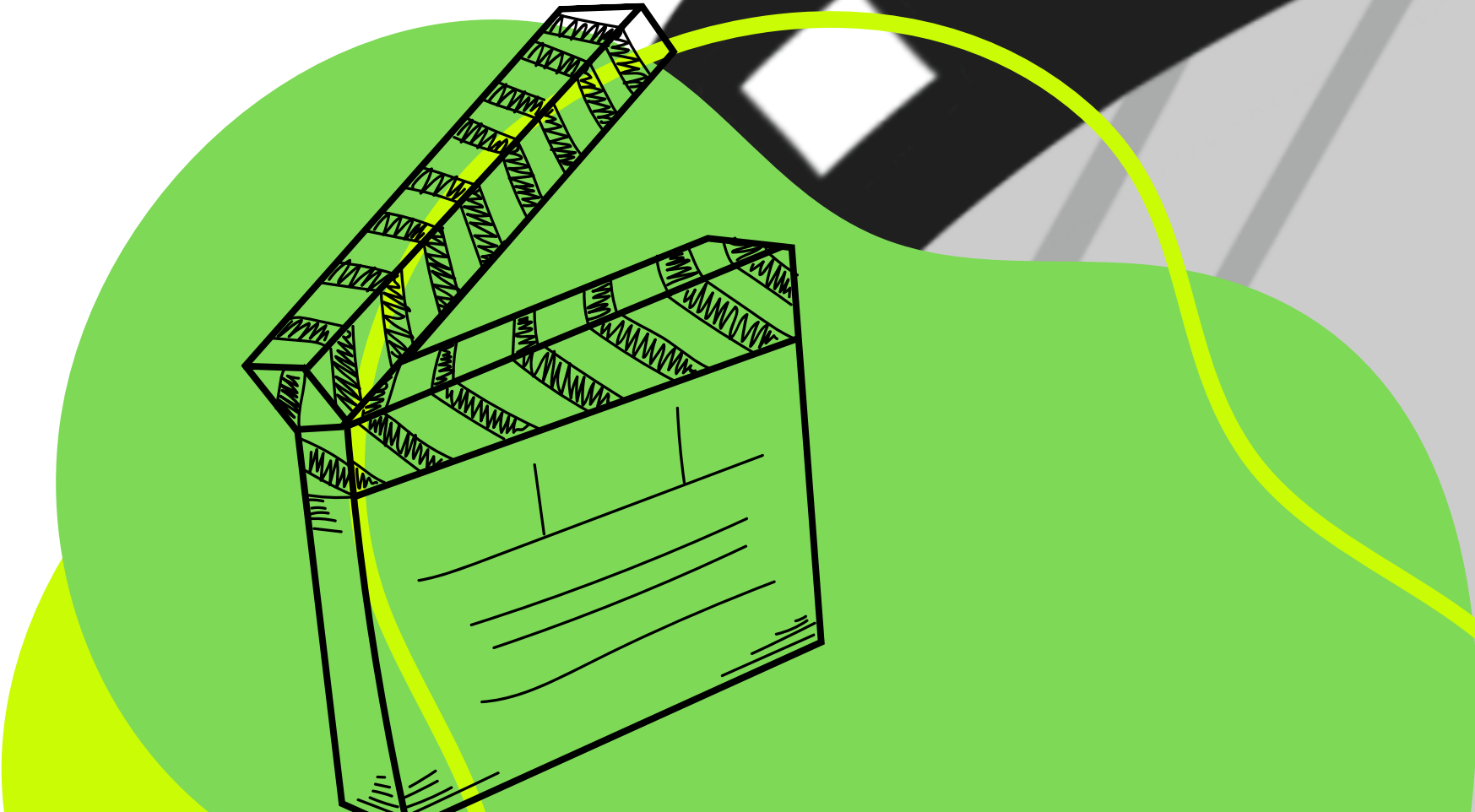
- A family story you've heard a hundred times
- A local legend or ghost story
- A strange object you find
- A friendship that changes everything
- A future version of Wakefield
- A secret nobody else has noticed
- Overcoming an obstacle

Try the "What If?" Challenge

Choose a place you know and ask:

**WHAT IF
SOMETHING
IMPOSSIBLE
HAPPENED HERE
TOMORROW?**

That single question could become a film.



**CREATIVE
TOOLKIT:**



**WRITE
A SCRIPT**

WRITE A SCRIPT

Every great film starts with a story.

Before anyone shouts "Action!", someone has to imagine what happens.

Where is it set?

Who are the characters?

What do they want?

What's standing in their way?

Why are they here?

That's what a script does.

It tells the story before the cameras start rolling.

You don't need to write pages and pages. Even one brilliant scene can introduce unforgettable characters and leave people wanting to know what happens next.

WHAT'S A SCRIPT?

A script is the blueprint or an outline for your film.

It tells us:

- Who is in the scene?
- Where does it happen?
- What do they say?
- What happens next?

Think of it as giving your actors a map to follow.

BUILD YOUR STORY

Every story has three important parts.

Beginning

Introduce your characters.

Where are they?

What's happening?

Middle

Something changes.

A mystery appears.

A problem begins.

A secret is discovered.

End

What happens next?

Do they solve the problem?

Do they learn something?

Or do you leave your audience wanting more?

DIRECTOR'S TIPS:

KEEP IT VISUAL

Instead of writing:

"Alex is nervous."

Show us.

"Alex's hands shake as they reach for the mysterious envelope."

GIVE EVERY CHARACTER A GOAL

Ask yourself:

- What do they want?
- Why does it matter?
- What's stopping them?

Characters become interesting when they have something to overcome.

KEEP PEOPLE TALKING NATURALLY

Read your dialogue out loud.

Would someone really say that?

If not...

Think of a couple of different way to get your point across.

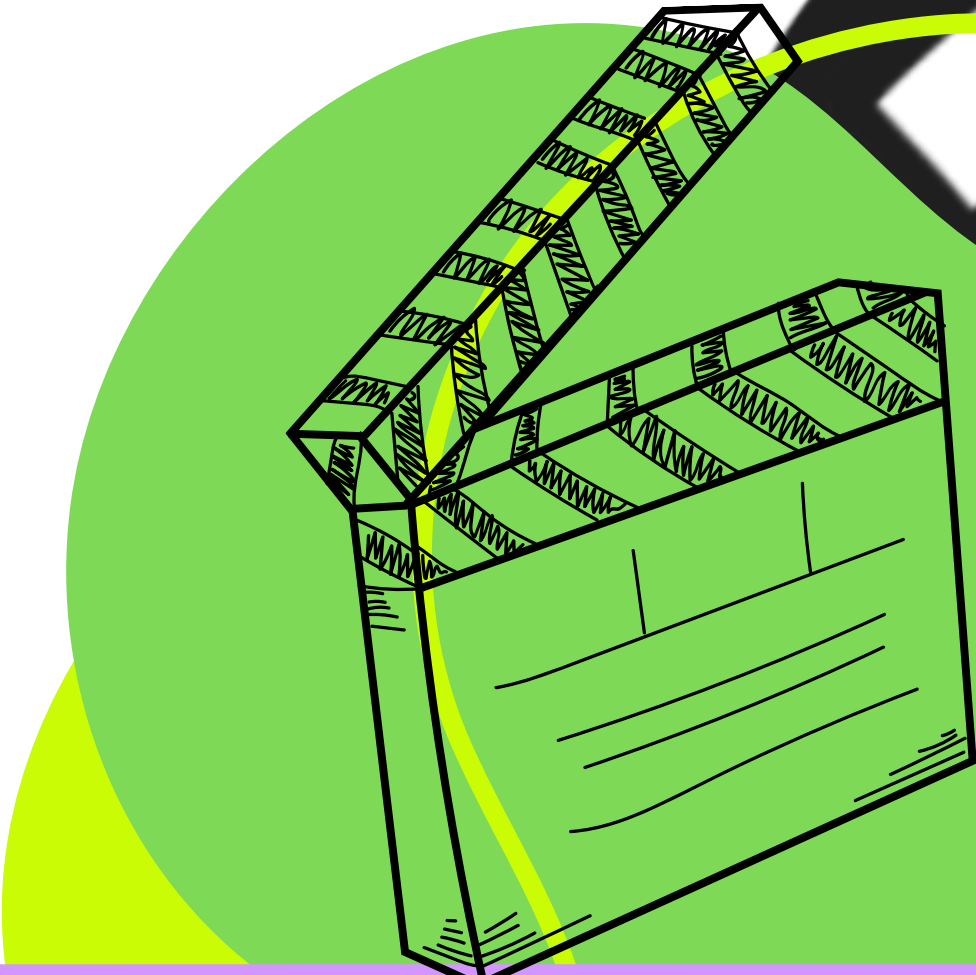
QUICK CHALLENGE:

Write one conversation between two characters.

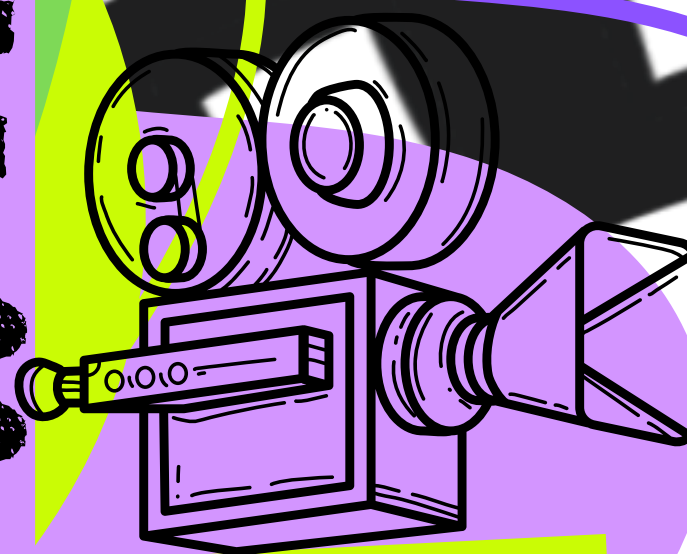
One of them knows a secret.

The other doesn't.

Can your audience work out what's happening?



**CREATIVE
TOOLKIT:**



**CREATE A
STORYBOARD**

CREATE

A STORY BOARD

Draw your film before you make it.

Filmmakers don't usually turn up with a camera and hope for the best.
They plan.

That's exactly what a storyboard helps you do.
Think of it as a comic strip for your movie.
Each box shows an important moment in your story.

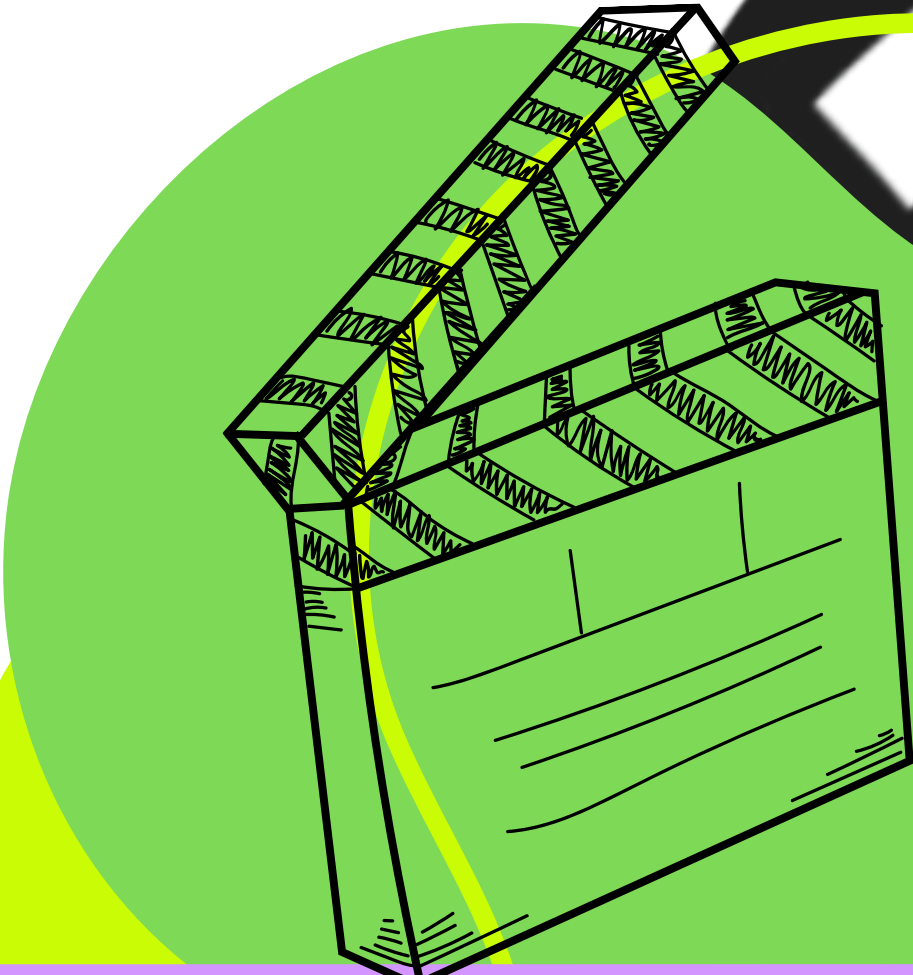
You don't have to be an amazing artist.
Stick figures work perfectly!
It's the ideas that matter.

WHAT SHOULD EACH FRAME INCLUDE?

Every storyboard panel should help tell your story.

Think about:

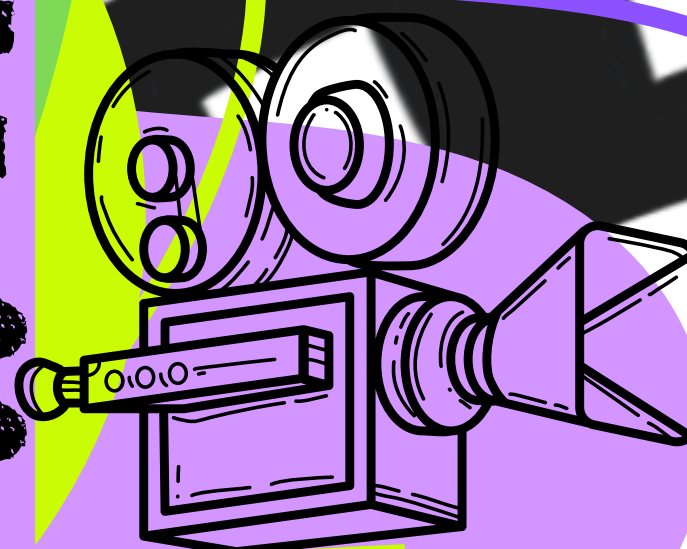
- Where is the scene?
- Who is in it?
- What's happening?
- Where is the camera?
- Is anyone speaking?
- What happens next?



**CREATIVE
TOOLKIT:**



**MAKE A
TRAILER**



MAKE A TRAILER

BEFORE YOU START FILMING...

Ask yourself:

- What's my story?
- Who is my main character?
- What's the big mystery?
- What's the most exciting moment I can tease?
- What feeling do I want the audience to feel?

TOP FILMING TIPS:

Hold your phone sideways.

Always film in landscape.
That's how films are shown
on the big screen.

Record clear sound.

A brilliant story is hard to follow
if nobody can hear it.
Film somewhere quiet
whenever you can.

EDIT LIKE A FILMMAKER

Leave your audience wanting more.

A trailer doesn't tell the whole story.
It gives just enough away to make people
excited.

Think about the trailers you've seen at the
cinema.

They make you ask questions.

They build excitement.

They leave you wanting to watch the film.

That's exactly what you're trying to do.

REMEMBER...

There isn't one right way to make a film.

Some stories are funny.

Some are mysterious.

Some are emotional.

Some are full of action.

The most important thing is this:

Tell the story only you can tell.

Because nobody sees the world quite like you do.

Keep your camera steady.

Use both hands.
Lean against a wall.
Rest your elbows on a table.
Steady shots always look more
professional.

Find great lighting.

Natural daylight is your friend.
Avoid filming with bright
windows behind people.

Sometimes less is more.

Cut out anything that slows your trailer down.

Keep the pace moving.

Build excitement.

Finish with your strongest shot.

**BIG
SCREEN**

BIG IDEA

YOUNG CREATIVE
FILM COMPETITION

NEED SOME

**INSPIRATION
FOR YOUR STORY?**

Not sure what to base your idea on?
Check out these **example story ideas**
set in and inspired by **Wakefield**.

EXAMPLE 1:



THE COAL MINE SECRET

A group of friends discover an old diary hidden inside a former mining building. As they follow clues left behind by a young miner from the past, they uncover a mystery that connects two generations separated by over 100 years.



EXAMPLE 2:



THE HEPWORTH TIME MACHINE

While visiting The Hepworth Wakefield, a student accidentally activates a mysterious sculpture that transports them through different periods of Wakefield's history. Can they make it back to the present before the museum closes?



© Jason Ingham

EXAMPLE 3:



THE CASTLEFORD CREATURE

Rumours spread across town about a strange creature seen near the river after dark. A group of young filmmakers decide to investigate and capture evidence for a documentary – but what they discover is far stranger than they imagined.



THE BEST STORIES START WITH IMAGINATION.
WHAT STORY WILL YOU CREATE?



BROUGHT TO YOU BY



DIRECTOR'S NOTEBOOK

Every Brilliant Idea Starts Somewhere.

This page belongs to you.

Use it however you like.

There are no wrong ideas.

No silly ideas.

Just possibilities.

MY FILM TITLE:

WHAT'S MY STORY ABOUT?

MY MAIN CHARACTER

NAME:

WHAT DO THEY WANT?

WHAT IS STOPPING THEM?

WHAT MAKES THEM UNIQUE?

IDEAS I DON'T WANT TO FORGET:

**DIRECTOR'S
REMINDER:**

You don't have to get it perfect.

You just have to start!



**READY TO SHARE YOUR BIG
SCREEN, BIG IDEA?**

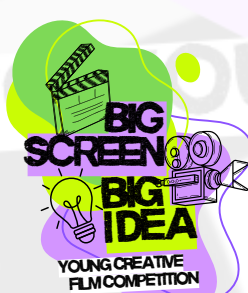
YOU'VE IMAGINED IT.

YOU'VE PLANNED IT.

YOU'VE CREATED IT.

**NOW IT'S TIME TO
SHARE YOUR STORY.**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



BROUGHT TO YOU BY



READY? LET'S GO!

FIVE EASY STEPS

1.FINISH YOUR PROJECT

Make sure you're happy with your script, storyboard or trailer and it's in one of the following file formats:

Script

- PDF
- Microsoft Word (.docx)
- Or submit a handwritten or printed paper copy

Storyboard

- PDF
- JPG
- PNG
- Or submit your original paper storyboard

Trailer

- MP4
- MOV

Helpful hints:

Most phones & cameras already record in MP4

File Naming

Please save your files like this:

fullname_Age_firstpartpostcode_Category

Example:

Emilysmith_11_WF4_Storyboard.pdf

2.CHECK YOUR WORK

Ask yourself:

- ✓ Is it my own original work?
- ✓ Have I chosen one category?
- ✓ Am I proud of it?

Need Help?

Email:
info@filmwakefield.co.uk

3. CHOOSE HOW YOU WANT TO SUBMIT

Option 1 – Submit Online (Recommended)

Upload your files through the **Big Screen, Big Idea** online entry form found on the Film Wakefield Website

www.filmwakefield.co.uk

You'll also complete the online entry form, and if you're under 18, your parent or guardian will complete the digital consent form.

Option 2 – Submit in Person

If you've created your script or storyboard on paper, you can hand it in instead.

Please deliver your completed entry to:

Sarah Marshall - Film Officer
Film Wakefield
Wakefield One
Burton Street
Wakefield
WF1 2EB

Please make sure your paper entry includes your completed entry form and parent/guardian consent.
Please note: Trailers must be submitted digitally using the online entry form.

4. COMPLETE THE FORM

Get your parent/guardian to complete the online consent form and attach your uploads.

5. PRESS SUBMIT

That's it!

We'll send you a confirmation email to let you know we've received your entry.

Now all that's left to do is wait for the judges...

REMEMBER!

The deadline is:

5PM - Friday 28 August 2026

Don't leave it until the last minute!

**GOOD
LUCK!**



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

Supporting the Next Generation of Storytellers.

Thank you for encouraging a young person to take part in **Big Screen, Big Idea**.

This challenge has been designed to inspire creativity, build confidence and introduce young people to the exciting world of film and storytelling.

Whether they're writing, drawing or filming, every participant will develop valuable creative, communication and problem-solving skills.

WHO CAN ENTER?

Young people aged 7–18 who:

- Live in the Wakefield District
- Attend a school or college within the district
- Take part in a Wakefield youth group, club or organisation

ORIGINAL WORK

Entries should be the participant's own original work.

Digital tools may be used for editing and presentation, but stories, artwork, scripts and films must be created by the entrant.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) must not be used to generate competition entries.

SAFEGUARDING

If filming involves other people, appropriate permission should always be obtained.

Parents, guardians, schools and youth leaders are encouraged to support young people during filming where appropriate.

SUBMITTING AN ENTRY

All entries should be submitted through the online competition portal.

Parents or guardians will complete one digital consent form covering:

- ✓ Competition consent
- ✓ Media permissions
- ✓ Showcase permissions
- ✓ Privacy notice

THANK YOU!

Every entry represents imagination, creativity and courage. Whether someone is entering their very first competition or already dreams of working in film, we hope **Big Screen, Big Idea** inspires them to keep creating. Because every filmmaker starts with one thing... A Big Idea.





NEED HELP?

Email: info@filmwakefield.co.uk

Visit: www.filmwakefield.co.uk

Follow us: [@filmwakefield](https://www.instagram.com/filmwakefield)

#bigscreenbigidea #filmwakefield

