

SLEEK GEEKS SCIENCE EUREKA PRIZE

MAKING YOUR VIDEO HINTS AND TIPS FROM THE JUDGES

Before you start

- Read through the judging criteria. This is what the judges use to determine the top entries.
- Spend time thinking about which topic to choose. The judges are not looking for the most complex science topic – choose something that you're interested in because then your passion will shine through in your video
- Do your research. Read about your topic online, in books or magazines. Talk about it with your friends, teachers, family members (this will also help you work out whether the topic is interesting, and how much people already know about it).
- A good topic has:
 - A discovery (are you asking a question? Creating a hypothesis? Finding out something new? Doing an experiment?)
 - Something visual (can you act it out, use animation/claymation/stop-motion, are there pictures or live video footage that you can make)
- Watch some of the previous finalists and winners on the Australian Museum Eureka Prizes youtube channel. Work out what you like about these, and what you dislike? What do you think made these successful? How can you make yours different?

Writing your script

- Think about the key ideas that you want to get across in your video (for a three minute video, we suggest no more than 3-5 ideas, so that you have time to fully explore each idea)
- Avoid information overload – keep it simple and keep the topic on track
- Think about your audience. Your video should increase the knowledge (in a particular science topic or idea) for a public audience. Consider what the audience already knows about the topic, and what else they would be interested in learning.
- How can you explain your science with an interesting story? Think about ways you can use techniques like humour, surprise or suspense to keep your audience engaged.
- Give your film a beginning, middle and end? Think of it like a story - is there something catchy at the beginning to grab the viewer's attention? Does the middle have enough excitement to keep the viewer watching? By the end of the video, have we learnt something new and are your questions resolved?
- Think about how you can explain something to your audience by showing them rather than telling them.
- Make sure you explain any complicated words that your audience might not know.
- Have someone to read over your script (get a parent or your teacher to do this) checking that your information is correct and that the story makes sense.

Filming

- Make sure the sound quality is good – it's best to record in a quiet place? Do you have access to a separate microphone that can plug into your camera?
- Choose your location(s) wisely. If you will be talking in front of the camera, make sure that your background is not too busy and has no distractions. Make sure you have a look through the camera each time you set up your shot so that you know what is in the frame.
- Speak clearly and steadily.

Finalising your video

- Does your video need editing? Can you cut any bits of the video that don't add to the story or the entertainment value?
- If you're adding any special effects or sound effects make sure that they add to the story and are not a distraction from what you are trying to say. Use these wisely.
- You might like to test your video in front of an audience – show it to your friends, family and teachers and watch their reactions while they are watching the video. Do they laugh when they should laugh? Are there any bits where they look bored? Do you need to make any changes to your video based on this?
- Make sure the video and the sound work. Test it out on a couple of different computers to make sure everything is ok.