



2009 STN Affiliate Convention Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando, Florida

“The Sweet 16” Rules and Regulations Broadcast Journalism Category

This contest is for an entire staff and up to two teachers.

Contestants will meet with the moderator at 7:00 a.m. on March 18, 2009 at the Rosen Plaza Hotel. Teams will receive a one-word topic or subject, and will be challenged to create an entire show in 16 hours, between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m., with that one word as the overall theme.

You must provide your own equipment for this event.

All teams will edit in their assigned area in the Exhibit Hall.

All footage used for this contest must be shot during the Sweet 16. No file footage allowed. Exceptions: See below regarding graphics, credits, and show opening.

That's it. There are almost no other rules to this contest. The team has 16 hours to shoot and edit a show based on one word and turn it in before the clock strikes 11 p.m.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Sweet 16:

Can teachers assist with brainstorming? Yes you can! Do what you normally do.

Can we bring our whole staff, all 28 of us? Yes you can!

What if we just enter eight or nine kids? Yes you can!

Can your staff leave the hotel to shoot? Yes you can! (But, we are not responsible for accidents if you do)

How many stories do we have to do? As many as you want.

How long should our final show be? As long as you want.

Can we use animation, slo-mo, chromakey, effects, kittens, ponies, etc.? Yes you can!

Can we pre-produce our graphics, our credits, and our show opening? Yes you can! (But the actual show content should be shot and edited during the event)

Can we use music? Yes you can - as long as it meets STN intellectual property rights policies.

Can we make shirts or hats with our team or logo on it? Yes you can! The STN logo is our property, so don't use STN's logo. Your logo is your property and you can do whatever you want with it. It's up to you what you wear, what you say, what you shoot, and what you edit into your finished show.

A few "rules"

Two teachers can enter with your staff. But you are on your own as to how you "advise" your team. We would expect you to be professional and let the kids learn from this experience by doing the work. But basically, do what you regularly do back home. We won't be checking on you. We just want your tape by 11 p.m.

Students are guests of the Rosen Plaza Hotel. Their rules are our rules. We take no responsibility for you, but please use some common sense and be good.

All shows must be submitted on Mini-DV tape. Cued and ready, of course, by 11 p.m.
You must supply all your own production equipment, including edit stations.
Bring some power strips, please.

The Sweet 16 judges will look for:

Strong stories that leave an impression

Strong overall production values (video and audio quality, appropriate graphics, special touches)

Reporting, writing and presentation that demonstrate integrity, objectivity and professionalism

A thematic approach

This contest has THREE divisions: one for programs that have only been around from 1 to 5 years, called "Division Green," another for schools that have been doing video production for six years or more, called "Division Blue." The third division, "Division Plaid" is for two or three schools that decide to come together to form one staff and collaborate. In this category, at least one teacher from one of the three schools must enter with the students, but a teacher from each school is allowed and encouraged. Schools entering in Division Plaid must find their own partner school. STN will not pair schools up for this event. Schools in Division Plaid will need to work out their own policies regarding shooting off-site, transportation, etc. (STN takes no responsibility for accidents) Schools can also enter two or three separate teams, but each team needs at least one teacher and at least three students. Division Plaid will not be eligible for awards unless there are at least five teams entered. All Division Plaid entries will be screened no matter how many entries there are.

Entry Fee:

\$100.00 per team (rosters can change up until 6:30 a.m. March 18)

The winners will be announced at the STN Closing Ceremony on March 21, 2009.

Questions or feedback?

Write us at convention@StudentTelevision.com.