NRB 2026

24-hour Film Challenge Details

Registration Deadline: 01/30/2026

THE CHALLENGE
Want to test your skills and creativity? Here's an opportunity to compete with other Christian college students across the country and create something with a huge impact. You'll have a ton of fun and may even win in the process!

Teams of college students of no more than four students per team will prepare an **original short narrative film with a length between 3 and 5 minutes created within a 24-hour time frame, incorporating a required theme, line of dialogue, and three props**. This competition will take place at the NRB 2026 in Nashville, TN.

All teams will gather on **Tuesday, February 17th at 8:30 AM** for the challenge Kick-Off. The official challenge **will begin promptly at 9:00 AM** and last **until Wednesday, February 17th, at 9:00 AM.**

ELIGIBILITY
This contest is open to all Full Member Educational Institutions with communications or film programs or student-run broadcasts.

AWARDS & PRESENTATIONS
First place, Second, and Third place winners will be presented certificates.

FILM PROJECT COMPONENTS
Each team will submit a unique short narrative film of 3 to 5 minute duration. Students will write, record, and edit an original work that incorporates this year's required theme, line of dialogue, and prop.

TARGET AUDIENCE
The target audience of the film is non-Christians who haven't professed faith in Jesus. These are people who, whether consciously or not, are needing/seeking hope and truth. They have not yet come to an awareness that Jesus is the solution to their questions and struggles. You don't need to outline the details of salvation but try to impart your audience with a small glimpse into the hope and freedom that comes from belonging to Christ.

CHALLENGE RULES

- All team members must be present at the Kick-Off on Tuesday, February 17th, at 8:30 AM.
- Each team consists of one faculty adviser and no more than four student production crew members. (Your actors are not included as part of your official team count and are not required to be listed when registering.)
- You may recruit your cast/actors from a variety of sources including but not limited to upcoming actors from the local area, individuals you meet at NRB, other attendees

from your school, or your own student crew. It is strongly recommended (but not required) that you select a cast with prior acting experience.

- Students are expected to create their projects in a professional manner, abiding by legal and industry standards of excellence. Therefore, all student teams will be required to turn in signed copies of the provided release forms for all persons appearing on camera (even if they are from your school/team) and for all non-hotel locations utilized in the production. This is a legal requirement and absolute necessity.
- **Faculty advisers may <u>not</u> participate in any creative component of pre-production, production, or post-production work. This includes acting, directing, shooting, writing, lighting, editing, lending voice, giving creative suggestions, etc. Faculty advisers may <u>only</u> perform administrative duties such as processing paperwork or acquiring legal permission for filming at locations selected by the student crew.**
- All creative activity must take place during the 24-hour period. This includes, but is not limited to, filming, B-roll, special effects, music composition, sound design, graphics/titles/credits, rehearsing, and scriptwriting. (The only work that may begin prior to the official 24-hour period is the organization of cast, crew, or locations.)
- Your film must incorporate the required theme, line of dialogue, and prop. These will be announced at the Kick-Off on Tuesday morning.
- Each team must provide its own equipment to record and edit their submission.
- All entries must be no more than 3 to 5 minutes in length (black to black). No opening credits are permitted and end credits (optional) should be 30 seconds or less.
- Each film must uphold Christian values and should not contain any content which iNRB/NRB might deem offensive (sexism, racism, strong language, sexually explicit material, etc.).
- No film may incorporate unauthorized use of copyrighted content from another film, video, song, picture, or composition. Song recordings or SFX must be public domain, or you should have the appropriate rights to use them.
- You may choose to film inside the hotel, outside the hotel, or a mix of both. When filming on the hotel grounds, you may only film in the areas pre-assigned to NRB. If you choose to film on private property outside the hotel, you are expected to obtain appropriate permission from the property manager (i.e. get a signed release form).
- Neither iNRB or NRB is responsible for damages or injuries that occur inside or outside the hotel during the 24hr Film Challenge.
- Each entrant agrees and grants iNRB/NRB permission to make available and display/perform and distribute entrants' names, photographs, likeness, voice, school, testimonials, and video submission in printed, broadcast, and/or new media, in perpetuity, in any manner they deem appropriate without compensation. All videos become the property of iNRB/NRB.

- **WHEN YOUR PROJECT IS FINISHED:**
  - **Export your finished film in a high-quality H.264 HD codec with the file naming convention "SchoolName_ProjectName" and place it on a USB flash drive. The team will have to provide its own flash drive. Make sure your USB flash drive works well.**
  - **Deliver your project (and all signed release forms) in person to the designated iNRB staff <u>no later than 9:00 AM on Wednesday, February 18th.</u>**

Late entries will not be eligible for prizes; they may be screened at the discretion of the judges, but this is not guaranteed.

- **Your film may not be posted on any social media or broadcast on any website until <u>after</u> the convention is over and the winners have been announced.**

JUDGING CRITERIA

The following criteria will be used:

- ***Cinematography:*** How strong are elements of visual creativity, lighting/shadows, frame composition, and depth of field? How much detail is given to camera focus, white balance, and color correction/grading?
- ***Visual Editing:*** How strong and consistent is the story's overall pacing? How seamless does the story feel through its match action cuts and its L-cuts? Is the axis line honored or abused? How well do the visual and audio edits line up with the cinematography's frame compositions throughout the film?
- ***Audio:*** Is the sonic world of the film clean and free of hums, hisses, and off-balance room noise/ambient sound? Are dialogue, natural sound, and foley at appropriate level settings? How well do music beds, atmospherics, and sound effects add emotion to the story?
- ***Script:*** Does the storyline make sense? Is each scene packed with just the important information, or do the scenes seem to drag on? How well does this script communicate Biblical truth without being cliché?
- ***Acting*****:** Are the actors' lines deliberate and meaningful? How well do the actors deliver their lines? Do the actors' blocking movements seem natural and appropriate?
- ***Use of Theme:*** Is there an effective incorporation of the stated theme into the actions and dialogue and overall messaging of the short film?
- ***Use of the Line of Dialogue:*** Is the designated line of dialogue carefully inserted into the script?
- ***Use of Props*****:** Is the designated prop carefully inserted into the script? Is it creatively used and visually captured?
- ***Length*****:** Was the project's total run time within the specified challenge requirements?
- ***Adherence to Other Overall Rules*****:** Is it clear that the students read, understood, and met all other challenge rules and requirements for this project?

The decisions are at the complete discretion of the judges, and all decisions are final.

Keep in mind that judges will base their scores on the criteria listed above. To increase your chances of winning, produce your film to this grading rubric. In prior challenges, the film with the best overall "production value and look" has not always won the contest. This is because it likely was not created with all judging criteria in mind.