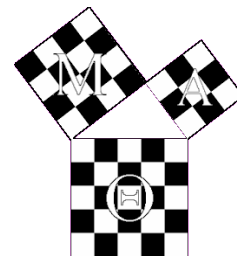


Mathematical Minutes Video Contest

Contest Hints, Dos and Don'ts



This year's Mathematical Minutes Contest was very exciting. There were many, many excellent videos. Even more importantly, schools seemed to be having a great deal of fun. It was obvious that chapters took the contest seriously and put a great deal of effort and time into their products. It was very enjoyable to watch so many chapters and so many students having a good time. For that reason alone, we encourage every chapter to consider making a video for next year's contest.

With that said, many chapters have questions about what makes a prize-winning video. It is almost impossible to answer that question, but the judges have compiled a list of dos and don'ts that may be useful for chapters considering taking on this challenge.

1. **WATCH** last year's videos. The winning videos all had some surprising elements that made them stand out. Other videos that did not receive awards had wonderful ideas, but made a few mistakes that hurt their chances of winning. Of course, there were also the videos where the school had a great deal of fun. There is absolutely nothing wrong with that either.
2. Please don't create videos that contain objectionable materials: a) smoking b) drinking c) illegal activities d) dangerous activities. We will disqualify videos with such materials.
3. Don't be **LATE**. Video entries are time-stamped and even a second too late is going to be disqualified. Give yourself plenty of time to deal with computer issues.
4. Check your links. We have previously received links that lead to an error page which puts all the hard work and dedication a school committed to waste.
5. Fill out the entry form completely. All information is needed to properly download, view and credit a video. We had nearly 40 videos this year, and improperly documented videos risk being ignored.
6. Make sure that there are no identifying features of your school. Check clothing and backgrounds carefully. If an identifying feature is seen, your video will risk being disqualified.
7. **Your video must stand alone.** Please don't send us emails, attachments, or explanations. We only need the submission form with a valid link.
8. The math in the video **must** be accurate and taught in a way that the audience will learn. (McDonald's arches and suspension bridges are not parabolas.)
9. You **DON'T** have to use all five minutes. Make sure that you don't bore the viewer with unnecessary filler.
10. Be wary of overused themes: extended chase scenes, dream sequences and musical parodies.

11. If you are going to do a parody of popular music, make sure that your words actually fit the song. The cleverest verses aren't impressive if they don't match the style and rhythm of the original.
12. If your words are important, make sure your audio is crystal clear. Viewers don't have time to decode bad audio. Some schools included a text overlay.
13. Costumes can really help a video if they make sense in the context of your story. If you must use that penguin outfit, your story should really need a penguin.
14. The first few seconds of your video are critical. Be sure to include creativity here. You need to catch the viewer's attention quickly.
15. Make sure to include your video short name, not only in the title page or submission form, but in the first few seconds of the video itself.
16. The best and worst clips of your video does not have to be math-related, but it is recommended.