

FAIR USE & FREE SPEECH A FILM CONTEST

University Film and Video Association

Sponsored by the Center for Social Media, School of Communication, American University

UFVA is hosting a contest for the best short documentaries employing fair use, made by higher education students and faculty.

Fair use is the legal use of other people's copyrighted work without permission or payment—in certain circumstances. Fair use ensures that freedom of speech survives, and that copyright owners don't become private censors.

The law does not specify exactly what is fair use in order to leave a great deal of flexibility for different creative communities and cultural changes over time. When in doubt, the courts turn to professional and creative practice and understanding. In the past, documentary filmmakers have found that broadcasters and cable casters, lawyers and insurers tell them that fair use is too hard to define, and therefore they cannot invoke it. In response to these restrictive policies, doc filmmakers came together and created a consensus document, The Documentary Filmmakers' Statement of Best Practices in Fair Use, describing what their professional community deems as acceptable application of fair use. That statement, along with more information, is available at centerforsocialmedia.org/fairuse. Since the release of this Statement in 2005, the industry has seen incredible change—it is now becoming commonplace for doc filmmakers to assert their fair use rights.

Entrants must employ fair use in quoting material in their documentaries, using the Documentary Filmmakers' Statement of Best Practices in Fair Use as a guide to their decision-making. In addition, entrants must explain what is fair used in their films and why it is fair use under the terms of the statement (see criteria below).

CALL FOR ENTRIES- MAY 1, 2008 DEADLINE (postmark)

ELIGIBILITY:

- Must have primary creative control of the work and have all rights and clearances for material not employed under fair use.
- Work must be submitted in NTSC, DVD (DATA only), miniDV, or via youtube* .

CRITERIA

- Work must be 5 minutes or less

* For screening only, and you must send your completed entry form to our office with a link to the YouTube page. If selected, must provide a hard copy of the work on DVD (DATA only) or miniDV.

- Work must be a documentary in any genre, including but not limited to essay, satire, parody, historical, musical, and personal
- It must employ fair use in quoting copyrighted material
- Submission must include a paragraph describing how the documentary's fair use falls within the guidelines set forth in the Statement of Best Practices in Fair Use

PRIZES

- \$500 for best student work, plus one year membership to UFVA
- \$250 for second place student work, plus one year membership to UFVA
- \$250 for best faculty work, plus one year membership to UFVA
- Winners will be screened at the UFVA Conference in August, 2008

SUBMISSION FORM

Each submission should be sent enclosed with the following information:

Artist or Director Name _____

Category: ___ Co-production (student and faculty) ___ Faculty only

Address _____

City, State and Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

Email _____

Title of work _____

Date of Production _____

Length of Production _____

Brief synopsis of the work _____

SEND WORK TO:

Maura Ugarte, Fair Use Free Speech Film Contest
Center for Social Media, American University
3201 New Mexico Ave N.W., Suite 395
Washington, D.C. 20016

AGREEMENTS AND PERMISSIONS

Entrants retain all rights to their films, except that by signing this form, you agree to the following things:

- UFVA is permitted to screen submitted films at the UFVA 2008 Conference and in any other future programs (public or private) that are approved by and associated with UFVA.
- UFVA may grant third parties the non-exclusive right to use submitted films for classroom and other non-profit educational purposes
- UFVA is permitted to duplicate films for Festival purposes. UFVA is allowed permission to make copies of submitted films for otherwise permissible public distribution without written consent from the artist(s).
- UFVA has permission to use any still photographs or imagery from the films, the films' name, trademark and the names of the contributors for advertising, marketing, and publicity purposes in print and on the UFVA website.
- UFVA may show or excerpt the film on its website as a successful example of invoking fair use, and may permit others to do so.
- Although care will be taken with the material, UFVA cannot take responsibility for the loss or damage of material sent. **DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL MATERIAL. MATERIAL WILL NOT BE RETURNED**
- It is the responsibility of the filmmaker(s) to obtain rights and permission for use music, film footage, and all other creative work related to their films, other than that used pursuant to fair use, prior to entering the UFVA Festival

NAME _____ DATE _____

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