



Film Production Course Start

Complete this before September

Welcome to Film Production. This is your Course Start work for the summer before college starts.

It should take around 5 hours. You will use it in your first Film Production lessons and submit it on Google Classroom once the course begins.

You may not be able to access the Film Production Google Classroom before term starts. That is fine. Complete the work in Google Docs, Word or another document you can save and bring with you. Keep it ready for September.

You are not expected to be an expert before the course starts. The aim is to arrive with a clear first piece of research, a working understanding of one media company, and evidence that you can organise independent work.

Make something. Upload it. Keep going.

What This Task Is For

Film Production is a making course. You will film, edit, upload and improve practical work.

You also need to understand how real media products are made, funded, released and brought to audiences. This Course Start task introduces that side of the course by asking you to research one recent media product and one company involved in making or releasing it.

What You Need To Create

Create a document called:

Film Production Course Start - Your Name

Use these three headings:

- 1 The media product and institution I have chosen
- 2 Ownership structure
- 3 Operating model

When Google Classroom opens in September, your teacher will show you exactly where to submit this work.

Choose One Media Product

Choose one film, TV programme, music video or video game released in the last 10 years.

Film is the best choice if you already have an idea, because this is a Film Production course. However, you can choose another type of media product if it gives you clearer research.

Your chosen product must be recent. The media industry changes quickly, so older examples are less useful for this task.

You may use Whiplash if you want to follow the example from the previous version of this task, but you are strongly encouraged to choose your own example.

Task 1: The Media Product And Institution I Have Chosen

Write 1-2 paragraphs introducing:

- the media product you have chosen;
- the company or companies involved;
- what the company does;
- whether the company produced, distributed, exhibited, published or released the product;
- why this company is important to your chosen product.

Useful sentence starters:

- The media product I have chosen is...
- The main institution I am researching is...
- This company was involved because...
- The company's role was...

Useful research questions:

- Who produced it?
- Who distributed or released it?
- Was it connected to a larger company?
- Was it independent, studio-backed, streaming-backed or publisher-backed?

Task 2: Ownership Structure

Explain who owns the company you are researching.

You should find out:

- whether the company is independent;
- whether it is owned by a larger parent company;
- whether it is part of a bigger media group;

- whether it works through partnerships, distribution deals or streaming deals;
- what other companies are connected to it.

You can include a simple ownership diagram if it helps. This can be a screenshot from a reliable source or a simple diagram you make yourself.

Keep your explanation clear. You do not need to know every legal detail, but you should be able to explain who owns what and how the company fits into the wider media industry.

Useful sentence starters:

- The company is owned by...
- It is part of...
- It works with...
- This matters because...

Task 3: Operating Model

Explain how the company works.

This will depend on the type of company you are researching.

For a production company, explain how it develops, funds, organises or produces media products.

For a distributor, explain how it gets the product to audiences through cinemas, streaming platforms, festivals, broadcasters, publishers or online platforms.

For a studio, streamer or publisher, explain how it commissions, funds, markets, releases or profits from media products.

Include examples if you can. These can come from your chosen product or from other products the company has worked on.

Useful sentence starters:

- The company makes money by...
- The company reaches audiences through...
- The company works with other organisations by...
- The company's role in the industry is...

Suggested Sources

Use reliable sources. Good places to start include:

- the company's own website;
- official film or product websites;
- IMDb or IMDbPro for basic production and distribution information;
- Box Office Mojo or The Numbers for film release and box office information;

- trade press such as Variety, Deadline, The Hollywood Reporter or Screen Daily;
- Wikipedia as a starting point, but not your only source;
- YouTube explainers only if they help you understand a concept.

Do not copy and paste large chunks of text. Use research to write your own explanation.

Example Research Route

If you were researching Whiplash, you might look at:

- Bold Films as a production company;
- Sony Pictures Classics as a distributor;
- how independent films are produced and then distributed through specialist film distributors.

You do not have to use Whiplash. It is only an example.

What Good Work Looks Like

Good Course Start work:

- names a specific recent media product;
- identifies at least one relevant media company;
- explains what the company did;
- explains who owns or controls the company;
- explains how the company operates;
- uses research from more than one source;
- is written in your own words;
- includes links to sources used;
- is ready to submit when Google Classroom opens.

Final Checklist

Before September, check that your document includes:

- your name;
- the title of your chosen media product;
- the release year;
- the company or companies you are researching;
- Task 1 completed;
- Task 2 completed;
- Task 3 completed;

- links to your sources.

If You Get Stuck

Do not disappear from the work. Do one small next step:

- choose a product you are interested in;
- find the official website or IMDb page;
- identify one company involved;
- write one paragraph under Task 1;
- save the document somewhere you can find it again;
- make a note of the exact question you need help with in September.

You do not need perfect research before the course starts. You need a serious first attempt that shows you are ready to begin.