

**YOUTH  
MAKING  
RIPPLES**



# Marine Science Filmmaking Guide

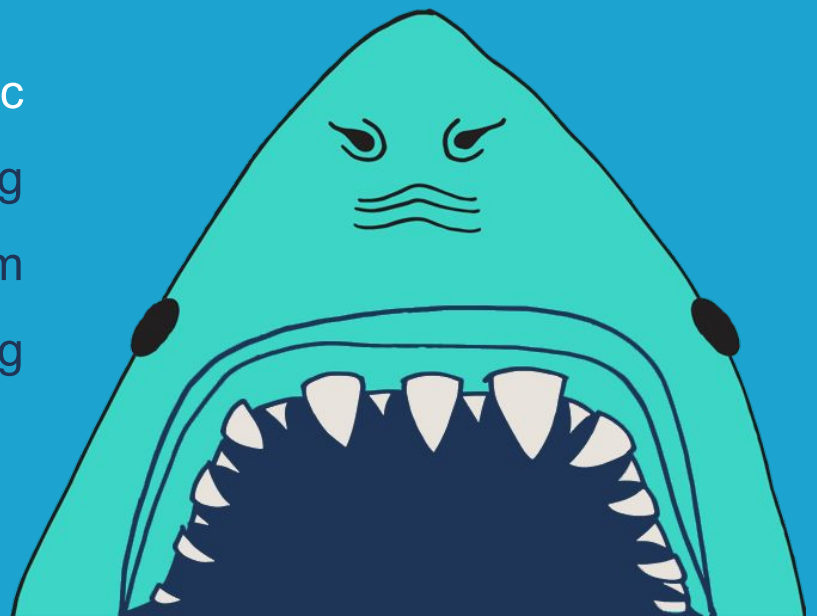
Tips for educators, parents and students interested  
in creating short marine science documentaries

Choosing Your Film Topic

Storyboard & Script Writing

Shooting Your Film

Audio Recording



# Choosing Your Film Topic

The activities and filmmaking tips outlined in these units will provide a tutorial for educators, parents, and students interested in creating their own short marine science documentaries. These documentaries are meant to be less than 5 minutes in length. The tutorials we provide are geared toward content shot and edited using smart phones. You can pick and choose certain units to guide you along your way for a comprehensive package on filmmaking. If you are working independently outside of a formal classroom setting can also use these units to prepare your film. These units are designed for any age (elementary - high school) and for a variety of educational settings including formal classroom, camps, afterschool programs, homeschooling groups, etc.

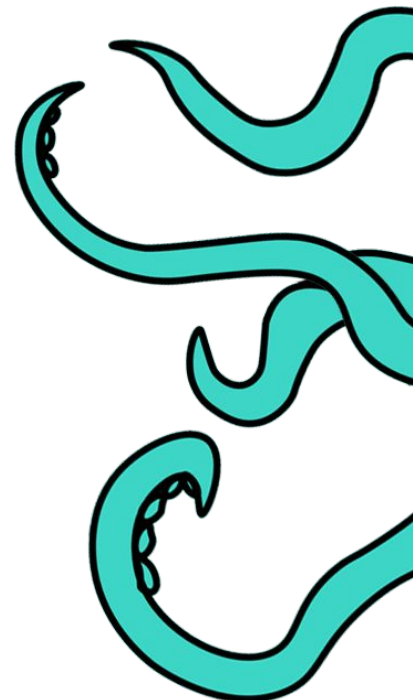
## Introduction

One of the great reasons why educators and students enjoy participating in the Youth Making Ripples Annual Film Competition is that the students have the freedom to be an advocate for whatever topic they are most passionate about. You also have the freedom to work as an individual or in a small group with your friends.

The first thing you will need to do is select your topic. If you are having trouble selecting a topic, don't worry! This "cheat sheet" provides a few ways for you to brainstorm what topic interests you!

## Topic Selection - Brainstorming Tips

1. A great starting point is to review past entries to our film competition. All of the films from our past winners can be found on our [website](#). Some hot topics over the years have included:
  - Marine Pollution
  - Importance of Ecosystems
  - Marine Creatures
  - Sustainability and Restoration
  - Climate Change
  - Threats to Species
  - Animal Behavior
  - Animal Adaptations

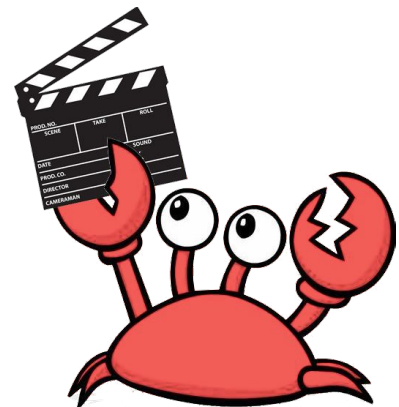


2. Do an online scavenger hunt to find a cool topic that interests you the most. Here are some websites that may help you on your way:
  - [National Geographic](#)
  - [NOAA Ocean Exploration & Research](#)
  - [Popular Science](#)
  - [Scientific American](#)
  - [Smithsonian Institute](#)
3. Think about what ocean related news has been mentioned on the news and social media. Oftentimes current “hot topics” make great film content.
4. Here are some examples of some of the top films that students have created in the past on a variety of topics related to our oceans:
  - [Climate Change](#)
  - Ecosystem Restoration:
    - i. [Artificial Habitat](#)
    - ii. [Coral-Reef Restoration](#)
    - iii. [Mangrove Restoration](#)
  - [Invasive species](#)
  - [Links Between Rivers and Oceans](#)
  - [Marine Litter](#)
  - [Overfishing](#)
5. You can also check out the Youth Making Ripples Virtual Mini Screenings that we’ve put together on specific topics:
  - [Creature Feature](#)
  - [Debris in the Sea](#)
  - [Ecosystem Explorations](#)

Once you have selected a topic, continue on to the other units in this guide to help bring your idea to life.

*The Youth Making Ripples Annual Film Competition is a short film competition for K-12 students on any marine science topic. Please visit our [website](#) for complete details and to submit your film.*

[www.YouthMakingRipples.org](http://www.YouthMakingRipples.org)





# YOUTH MAKING RIPPLES



## About Us

Youth Making Ripples is a non-profit focused on marine science outreach and education since 2014. Our annual film competition is an opportunity for K-12 students (< 18 years of age) to use their creative talents and serve as a voice for our oceans. We encourage elementary, middle and high school students to create their own marine related film on a topic of their interest. All submission must be less than 5 minutes. The message of your film can focus on an interesting marine topic, a specific marine related problem or issue, or a call to action for conservation.

## Our Mission

Youth Making Ripples is a global platform for ocean conservation, education, and discovery. Our mission is to raise awareness of critical marine issues and promote the protection of our oceans. Our organization creates and hosts powerful and inspirational educational events around the world designed to engage the public in ocean conservation.

## Help Us Build A Better Future

Whether you are a teacher, parent, student or marine science enthusiast, there are a number of ways you can get involved. Sign up for our mailing list and visit our website for more details at [www.YouthMakingRipples.org](http://www.YouthMakingRipples.org)

