

NEXTGEN PERSPECTIVES 2026 APPLICATION INFORMATION:

Schools TY Short Film Workshop Programme and Award 2026
in association with Burning House Productions

How to Break Down Your 3-Minute Short Film Idea

1. **Start with the Core Message:** Think about the main idea or theme of your film.
Since the focus is on equality, diversity, and inclusion, ask yourself:
 - What message do I want to share about these themes?
 - Is it a story about embracing differences, overcoming challenges, or celebrating diversity?
2. **Define the Main Character (or characters):** Every story needs a main character to focus on. Describe your character:
 - Who are they? (e.g., a young student, a community leader, someone facing a personal challenge)
 - What do they want? (e.g., to be accepted, to make a difference, to belong)
 - What stands in their way? (e.g., prejudice, self-doubt, an external obstacle)
3. **Create a Simple Plot:** Break down your story into three parts:
 - **Beginning (Setup):** Introduce the character and their world (first 30-45 seconds).
 - What's happening at the start of the story? Show us a problem or situation related to your theme.
 - **Middle (Conflict):** The character faces a challenge or problem (next 1.5 to 2 minutes).
 - What obstacle does the character need to overcome? How does this relate to equality, diversity, or inclusion?
 - **End (Resolution):** Show how the character overcomes the challenge (final 30-45 seconds).
 - How is the problem resolved? Does the character change, or do they change the world around them?
4. **Keep it Simple and Visual:**
 - A short film relies on visuals to tell the story. Think of how to show your character's emotions and challenges through their actions rather than words. ○ For example, instead of telling us that someone feels excluded, show them sitting alone while others are together. Use imagery and symbolism to express your message.
5. **Focus on One Moment or Idea:**
 - In a 3-minute film, there isn't much time to tell a long, complicated story. Choose one key moment or idea and focus on it.
 - Maybe it's a conversation, a decision, or a single event that changes everything for your character.
6. **Incorporate Diversity and Inclusion:**

- Make sure your story reflects the themes of the workshop. Show how different perspectives, backgrounds, or experiences enrich the story.



- You might feature characters from diverse backgrounds or tackle issues like discrimination, acceptance, or belonging in your narrative.

Example Outline:

Title: "Different But the Same"

- **Core Message:** We may have different backgrounds or experiences, but we all want the same thing—to belong.
- **Main Character/s:** A new student who feels out of place in their new school. ●
- Beginning:** The new student walks into the classroom for the first time and sees groups of students talking, but no one notices them.
- **Middle:** The student tries to join in different activities (sports, lunch, class projects), but feels excluded or different each time.
- **End:** Another student notices them sitting alone, starts a conversation, and they realise they have more in common than they thought.