

## Tips for entering our video contest

### What's a PSA?

A Public Service Announcement is a media message designed to raise public awareness and change behavior. There are numerous approaches to PSAs. Consider searching “best public service announcement videos” online to view examples.

### Sometimes shorter is better

Don't feel like you have to use all 90 seconds. Some of the best PSAs are much shorter. The key is to have a very clear message and to make your delivery compelling.

### Be original

Resist the temptation to use images, video clips and music created by others (especially if it is not fair-use or you have not purchased a license). Show us what you can do with original images and original video.

This year's contest theme aligns with the Mercy Education Core Value: A Voice for Dignity and Respect. This is a topic that could cover a wide range of ideas. Choose one aspect to focus on that explores dignity and respect but also reflects one or more of the Mercy Critical Concerns.

When choosing your approach, think about the importance of respecting human dignity and the ways that human dignity is often ignored. Consider ways that we can welcome diverse voices, support oppressed or marginalized groups in society and stand in solidarity with others.

While your initial thoughts might turn toward addressing cliques or relationships at school, consider how you might address issues of dignity and respect that are relevant not just on campus but in society and the world.

Your message could be informational, emotional, inspirational, hopeful, thought provoking, etc. Some possibilities include:

- Telling the story of a group or individual who is oppressed or discriminated against because of their race, ethnicity, gender, orientation, country of origin, social status or another trait
- Sharing the success story of someone who has overcome an unwelcoming situation
- Encouraging others to stand up for or stand in solidarity with people who are marginalized
- Celebrating the variety in our communities and our world
- Encouraging others to be accepting of people who are different from them

Your video does not need to reference the Sisters of Mercy, or the Mercy Critical Concerns, but it should reflect the spirit of the Mercy Community in regard to embracing dignity and respect.

## Tips for producing a great video

### Planning

What is the story you want to tell? Brainstorm ideas, then [storyboard](#) or script your plan. Good storytelling keeps viewers interested in your video.

### Image Quality

Focus, lighting, frame composition and image stability all contribute to image quality. Careful attention to these details will help you produce a video that people want to watch.

#### Sound Quality

Not all messages are conveyed visually. Sound is an important component, and not all video cameras are good at recording audio. Paying attention to volume and background noise can help improve sound quality. Subtitles can assist when in places when speech is not clear. If you use them, make sure subtitles are clear and easy to read.

#### Orientation

Consider producing your video in portrait mode. Since we are interested in videos that can be posted on social media, and will likely be viewed on phones, portrait mode can be a better choice than landscape, which looks better on a computer screen.

#### Editing and Transitions

Choose essential scenes. Editing to hold the viewers interest while keeping under 90 seconds and selecting appropriate transitions to move from one scene to the next will keep your video flowing.

#### Online Resources

Search out online resources that explain the video production process. Watching videos that others have created, and that you like, is another way to get ideas for your video.