

CITIZENS FOR GLOBAL SOLUTIONS 2007 FLASH MOVIE CONTEST

CONTEST RULES AND STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS



*“No Smoke without Stacks”
by Pat Harpin, age 17
2006 Flash finalist*

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THE 2007 FLASH MOVIE CONTEST

"How to" manual: from start to finish

CONTEST DESCRIPTION

Citizens for Global Solutions is holding its 3rd annual Flash movie contest for students, budding artists, multi-media designers, and activists who are interested in thinking about global issues and making some cool Flash videos. The top contenders will be published on our website.

We're looking for short Flash movies that can inspire, amuse and activate people out there who believe that a better world is possible. You are welcome to work alone, in a team, or as part of a classroom project (but the cash prizes remain the same).

Ready to make some Flash? Check out the contest theme and get started!

PRIZES

1st Place: \$2,000*

2nd Place: \$1,000*

3rd Place: \$500*

*Non-U.S. residents are subject to a 30% reduction in prize money so that we can adhere to U.S. tax laws.

CONTEST THEME:



Let's face it: most of the news we get about the rest of the world is pretty scary. The media tends to focus on wars, conflicts, and disasters – and tends not to focus on solutions. **Thinking globally and acting locally is about NOT being afraid of the world.** It's about thinking of yourself as a global citizen. And it's about taking positive action for change. Think about a global problem you care about. Why do you care about it? Is there something you can do from your own home or community to help (in big ways or small) to solve the problem?

Here's a specific idea for people who need some "getting started" help:

1) **Make your movie on the issue of Energy.** Energy has been a huge issue over this past year. It's only going to get bigger. If you really think about it, energy is probably the one global issue that hits closest to home. Think about where our energy comes from. Think about all the ways you use energy: turning on and off your lights, cooking, watching T.V., driving your car (even if you don't drive, think about how you get around town); the list goes on. You can start to see how much energy you use in just one day – a lot! Could you imagine life without it? How do our actions impact other people in other parts of the world?

Or, for those who would rather go their own way:

2) **Choose an issue of your choice.** Tell us what global issue you care the most about and what you think people should do about it. This is your chance to show us (and the world) your vision of how Americans and America can work with other countries to make the world safer and better.

*** Check out how our former winners and finalists answered these questions by watching the enclosed CD or visiting: <http://globalsolutions.org/flash>**

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Questions? Call us: 202-546-3950 x124 or x114

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MAKING YOUR MOVIE

If you've used Flash technology before and know what you're doing: GOOD LUCK and off you go! If, however, you're a "first-timer", or are simply looking for some guidance, we've compiled some resources you can use to help you along.

>>> First, the EASIEST program to use to create Flash animation is called "Swish Max". It can be found here: <http://www.swishzone.com>. (Students & Teachers can even get an 80% off the price!)

There are some great Swish tutorials out there, too. Some free, some not:

<http://www.omegagrafix.com/swintro.htm> - This is a basic tutorial

<http://www.swishmaxtutorials.com>

http://www.cartoonsolutions.com/info/swish_tutorial.html

<http://www.swishzone.com/index.php> <http://www.allgraphicdesign.com/swishtutorials.html>

<http://www.tutoriaselect.com/learnhowtofree/graphics/animationsoftware/SWiSH/swishflashtutorials.php> -

These tutorials are free

>>> A harder program to begin with is the original Macromedia Flash software. Though some hard core Flash animation artists will tell you that it is the only way to go. You can find it here:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/flash/flashpro/> - we should warn you, it proved a bit too difficult for us animation newbies here at Citizens for Global Solutions...but then, we're not as smart as you!

>>> <http://www.cartoonsmart.com> - Cartoonsmart.com has Macromedia Flash tutorials that are really easy to follow. Some are free and some are pretty inexpensive and can get you animating within a day. You know they're good when WE could figure them out!

>>> <http://www.newgrounds.com/flash/index.html> - Newgrounds.com is a great tutorial for people who have no clue how to use Macromedia Flash. It starts out at the very, very basic level. There are simple tutorials and a few massive ones. The best one for a total overview of flash is called "Ultimate Tutorial 2".

>>> http://www.flashkit.com/tutorials/Getting_Started/Flash_MX-Oleg_Laz-1116/index.php - Flashkit.com is good for basic animation. It has pictures and Flash to go along with the text to teach people how to draw and animate simple creations.

>>> Other good sites:

<http://www.jmtb02.com/index2.php>

<http://www.creatingonline.com/webmaster/flash.htm>

<http://www.w3schools.com/flash/default.asp>

<http://www.flashadvisor.com/>

<http://webdesign.about.com/cs/flashtutsbeginner/>

<http://www.webwasp.co.uk/tutorials/index.php>

<http://www.thefreecountry.com/webmaster/flash.shtml>

>>> Still looking for help? Email flash@globalsolutions.org.

SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY

Deadline: All entries must be received no later than April 1, 2007.

You can send your entries electronically as an attachment to flash@globalsolutions.org or through this nifty website called "yousendit.com" (<http://www.yousendit.com>). You may also send them by snail mail. If you are sending via email, please write "Flash Contest" in the subject line. If you are sending through yousendit.com, please also send an email to flash@globalsolutions.org telling us you've sent your entry via yousendit.com, and include the information below.* If you're sending via snail mail, please send it to:

>>> Citizens for Global Solutions
Attn: Flash contest
418 7th St SE
Washington, DC 20003

*No matter how you send your entry, please send this info to us: your name, phone number, address, email, name of school, and date of birth.

ELIGIBILITY

Would you classify yourself as a member of the mammalian species known as Homo sapiens within the biological superfamily called Hominoidea? Do you have opposable thumbs or have at your disposal other methods of operating a computer machine? Do you like simple computer animation?

If you're pretty sure you're human and can produce short Flash movies with any flash animation software of your choice, YOU'RE ELIGIBLE!

Entrants need not be university students, although students and recent graduates are strongly encouraged to enter. Entrants are not required to be U.S. citizens; however please note the disclaimer under the "Prizes" section on page 1 of this manual.

JUDGING

Judging of the top entries will be done by a diverse 5-member judging panel. Submissions will be judged based on creativity, originality, animation and design, and the entrant's adherence to the theme.

The first round of cuts will be made by a special panel made up of Global Solutions staff and active members.

RULES

- 1) **YOU MUST BE REGISTERED TO WIN!** Visit <http://globalsolutions.org/flash> to register.
- 2) Flash pieces should be sized 550w X 400h (this is a default size), and run between 30 seconds and 2 minutes. No one is going to get a stopwatch out, but think short and snappy rather than long and dreary.
- 3) All entries must be original pieces that have not been previously published or infringe on the work of any third party. In other words, give us something new, and don't rip off someone else's work! The use of copyrighted material will automatically disqualify your entry.

Need some music or images for your masterpiece? Visit <http://creativecommons.org> and get what you need the free and legal way!
- 4) We here at the national office do not support censorship; however, anything that we post on our website is going to be seen by all of our members and thousands, if not millions of other people. So, we ask you to carefully consider the language you use. If you're not sure, ask us.
- 5) Try to keep file size below 4 megs. All Flash pieces *must* have a preloader. If your entry doesn't load well, it won't be easy for the masses to adore your work. (Preloaders are freely available all over the web. **If you're not sure, ask us.**)
- 6) This is a 'Flash' contest. All entries must be received as a .SWF file. This is the only acceptable format. Essays, PowerPoint presentations, and that one paper that you got an 'A' on in History class will be eaten by our company dog upon receipt.
- 7) Please put our logo in the credits at the end of your Flash piece. We're a non-profit organization and could use all the help we can get when we show-and-tell others about our educational Flash Movie Contest! (And so we can do it again next year!)

>>> **DOWNLOAD OUR LOGO:** http://www.globalsolutions.org/Flash_Contest/2006/site/logos.htm

HELPFUL HINTS

[Hints are here to help. They're not rules. You can do it your way!]

>>> **SET UP YOUR BIG IDEAS CLEARLY AND POSITIVELY**

Don't fuel the "big-bad-world" belief. Don't show us chaos. You should present your global problem however you want, but avoid the "we're all going to die" ending.

>>> **HELP YOUR AUDIENCE UNDERSTAND WHAT CAN BE DONE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

Give an answer to: "So what can be done about it?" If you don't help people understand what can be done, you may leave audiences confused and uninterested. So make sure you leave listeners with a clear sense of what people can do to create the kind of change you're talking about.

>>> **LET YOUR PERSONALITY SHINE THROUGH!!!**

Be funny. Be sarcastic. Or just be plain serious. It's really up to you!

EXAMPLES

POP THE CD THAT CAME WITH THIS KIT INTO YOUR COMPUTER. The videos on the CD-Rom are great examples of what people just like you have done in the past. They are the top twenty winners and finalists between the 2005 and 2006 contests. You can also check out last year's winners and finalists by visiting: <http://globalsolutions.org/flash>.

CONTEST TERMS AND CONDITIONS

[This is the section the lawyers told us to put in.]

- 1) Citizens for Global Solutions reserves the right to disqualify any entry that is deemed overly offensive, which is subject to the opinion of staff at the national office.
- 2) No purchase necessary, but you will need to have software to create Flash animations. If you don't already have the necessary software and can't afford to purchase Macromedia Flash or Swishzone's Swish Max, you can download a free trial version with tutorials from their websites.
- 3) All submissions must be available to Citizens for Global Solutions for unlimited use, in whole or in part, for any purpose (including website promotion of future Flash Contests, future DVD distribution, educational use, film festivals, and theatrical distribution) without notification or compensation beyond the cash prizes given during the life of the Global Solutions Flash Movie Contest 2007.
- 4) All taxes (federal, state and local, if any) are the responsibility of the winners.
- 5) Citizens for Global Solutions is not responsible for late, misdirected or corrupted entries.
- 6) Offer void where prohibited, restricted or regulated by law.
- 7) All entrants under 18 *must* have parental consent to be eligible to win.
- 8) Citizens for Global Solutions reserves the right to disqualify any entry at any stage of the contest.