

Trop Jr: Empowering Young Storytellers Through Short Filmmaking

This session invites teachers to explore how short filmmaking can enrich literacy learning and amplify student voice through the Trop Jr Education Resource. Returning in 2026, Trop Jr, Australia's largest short film competition for young people aged 15 and under, provides an creative platform where students can see share their story on a national stage.

Short filmmaking offers a powerful, creative pathway into building literacy and media literacy skills. It gives young people meaningful opportunities to shape narratives, develop characters and communicate ideas grounded in their own experiences and identities. This workshop demonstrates how accessible screen-storytelling practices can foster agency, inclusion and connection in the English and Media Arts classroom.

Teachers will be introduced to practical, curriculum-aligned strategies for scripting, storyboarding, filming and editing, supported by adaptable examples suitable for a wide range of learners and classroom contexts. Through collaborative discussion and hands-on demonstrations, the session highlights how filmmaking builds critical and creative thinking, problem-solving, collaboration and authentic audience engagement.

As part of this interactive workshop, participants will step into the shoes of their students by working in small production teams to develop the first stage of their own short film concept. This playful, accessible activity models how the process encourages teamwork, ownership and creative confidence.

Educators will leave with classroom-ready tools, approaches for strengthening student voice and strategies for creating inclusive storytelling environments where every learner feels confident to share their creativity. Join the ACTF Education team to discover how short filmmaking can transform literacy learning, deepen engagement and empower students to become capable, creative and courageous storytellers.