

Careers Behind the Scream

You're the producer of a 30-second horror short. Who's on your crew?



Every scary scene you've watched took a whole crew to make. Your budget covers only **6 of the 10 roles** below. Choose carefully, then make your case.

Step 1 Check the 6 Roles You'll Hire

☐ Screenwriter Writes the story, the scares and the dialogue.	☐ Video Producer Plans and runs the shoot, from budget to final cut.	☐ Virtual Production Operator Runs the cameras and screens on a virtual set.	☐ Sound Designer Builds the creaks, whispers and silence.	☐ Makeup Effects Artist Designs and applies makeup and prosthetics.
☐ Costume Designer Creates the look of every character.	☐ Stunt Coordinator Plans and safety-checks falls, chases and fights.	☐ Virtual Production Visual Effects Supervisor Leads the digital effects for a virtual set.	☐ Video Editor Cuts footage to control pacing and tension.	☐ Film Set Construction Manager Plans and builds the sets.

Step 2 Fill Out Your Crew Call Sheet

Role you hired	What goes wrong in your film without them?

Step 3 Find Your Fit

Which role could you see yourself in? List two skills or interests you already have that would help.

Step 4 Look It Up

Pick a role that has a [Career Profile](#) in Pathful: [Video Producer](#), [Virtual Production Operator](#), [Costume Designer](#), [Video Editor](#), [Film Set Construction Manager](#) or [Virtual Production Visual Effects Supervisor](#). What is one thing that surprised you?

Time

35 to 40 minutes

Grades

9 to 12

Best For

Halloween week, a Career Exploration lesson or a substitute plan

What Students Will Do

Students play the producer of a 30-second horror short. The budget covers only 6 of the 10 crew roles, so students pick the 6 they would hire and explain what would go wrong without each one. Then they connect one role to their own skills and research it in Pathful.

Before You Start

- Print one page per student. The educator page is for you only.
- Make sure students can log in to Pathful for Step 4, or plan Step 4 as homework.
- Optional hook: play 20 seconds of a scary scene with the sound off, then on, to show how much the Sound Designer and editor shape the scare.

How to Run It

1. (3 to 4 min) Read the opening paragraph aloud. Say there is no single right crew; students only need to justify their choices.
2. (5 to 7 min) Step 1: students read the ten roles and check the 6 they will hire.
3. (8 to 12 min) Step 2: on the call sheet, students write each hired role and what goes wrong in the film without it. Walk the room; this is the slowest step.
4. (5 to 7 min) Partner talk: each student explains one role their partner left out and why they would hire it.
5. (8 to 12 min) Steps 3 and 4: students pick one role they could see themselves in, list two skills or interests that fit, then find that career in Pathful and write one surprise.
6. (3 to 5 min) Invite three or four students to share their crew.

Answer Key

There is no single correct crew. Strong answers name a concrete problem, such as "without a Sound Designer the scary scene is silent" or "without a Costume Designer every character looks the same." Roles: Screenwriter, Video Producer, Virtual Production Operator, Sound Designer, Makeup Effects Artist, Costume Designer, Stunt Coordinator, Virtual Production Visual Effects Supervisor, Video Editor, Film Set Construction Manager.

Discussion Prompts

- Which role did most of the class skip? What would the film lose?
- Which of these jobs happen before filming, during it and after it?
- Which role would you hire last, and why?

Support and Extend

- Short on time? Do Steps 1 and 2 in class and assign Steps 3 and 4 as homework.
- Support: give a sentence starter, "Without a _____, the film would _____."
- Extend: students write a three-sentence pitch for their film that names the roles that make it work. Pair with a [Live Session](#) featuring a media or design professional if one is available.