



## Contest Description

Edmonton Expo Centre, Edmonton

May 6 & 7, 2026

<b>EVENT:</b> 2D Character Computer Animation (Teams of Two)	<b>LEVEL:</b> Secondary
<b>EQUIPMENT DROP OFF, SET UP AND TESTING</b> <b>MAY 5:</b> 4:00PM – 5:30PM	<b>LOCATION:</b> Hall E Edmonton Expo Centre, Edmonton
<b>COMPETITION START &amp; END TIMES:</b> <b>MAY 6:</b> 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM <b>MAY 7:</b> 8:00 AM – 1:00PM (Detailed schedule below)	<b>REGIONALIZED:</b> NO
<b>DURATION:</b> 13.5 hrs. (2 days)	<b>WORLD SKILLS TRADE #:</b> 88

**Please Note:** This document is subject to change as competition information is updated. Competitors are responsible for staying up to date with the most recent information. Check the footer for last updated date. Changes will be highlighted in yellow.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Character Animation deals with the creation and animation of characters and models used in storytelling. They may take the shape of any object(s) in response to the theme provided. **The theme of the project will be provided to the competitors at the orientation session on Day One** of the competition. While there are no limitations as to the nature or complexity of the characters; it should be noted that a character's ability to express emotion and instill empathy is the mark of good character development, and that very simple characters can express emotion. Upon completion of the animation, teams will present their storyboard, model sheets, and animation for judging.

### Purpose of the Challenge:

To evaluate each team's ability, skill, and knowledge of animation as they explore employment options in the animation field.

### Skills and Knowledge to be Tested:

Given a project, participants will be challenged to detail and plan the development of a completed story. The competition will focus on the participants' ability to tell that story. By scripting and storyboarding, the competitors outline their idea on paper. Competitors will then bring their story to life by creating and animating the characters, backgrounds, and other objects or symbols as outlined in their storyboard. This represents the animation process.

**Project:**

To reflect the process used in the animation industry, the project will be structured in duration and required form. Examples of forms might include a gaming animation, movie trailers, shorts, instruction, advertising, business, re-enactments, or simulations. Competitors will be asked to complete a minimum of 30 seconds of animation. With the changes to predesigning a character prior to competition, competitors can focus more on the animation. The competition is completed in teams of two. The final storyboards and project files must be submitted and remain with Skills Canada Alberta, but students are allowed to take their completed project files and animations at the end of the event.

**NEW Character Pre-Design before Competition:**

Teams are **now** asked to design a character to be submitted **prior** to the competition. This character must remain true to the submitted design on the day of competition. Competitors are allowed to pre-rig components of their character in terms of limb movements (arms & legs), however facial expressions cannot be pre-rigged prior to competition. Character design must include 4 positions of the character, front,  $\frac{3}{4}$ , side and back. The submission can be designed as a character line sheet or a character showcased in four panels. Characters should be submitted with colour and include the name of competitors and school. Submissions can take place as either PDF Files or JPEGs of the 2D character, or students are encouraged to submit a STL file of their character. If a committee member is unable to access the STL file properly, competitors may be asked to submit screenshots of their character design.

**Submission for characters must be received NO LATER than Friday April 17<sup>th</sup> by 4:00pm.**

**If competitors do not submit their submission prior to this date and time, they will be disqualified from the competition.**

**ALL submissions must be submitted using this link:** <https://skillsalberta.jotform.com/260084715049962>

**Day of Competition** - Competitors will be given 13.5 hrs to create animatics and animation, that include a min. one character.

**Wild Card** - During the orientation competitors will be given an additional wild card that must be included in the animation. The additional wild card must be a necessary part of the story plot. The single wild card will be selected from one of the following: **flag, watering can, banana**

**Additional Competition Information and Expectations:**

1. 2D teams will be provided with a theme at the start of the competition.
2. There must be an obvious beginning and end to the animation. This could be through the use of the first and last frames being black, or through titling.
3. Teams will produce a storyboard that sets out their proposed animation that follows the project form and theme provided.
4. The first hour of the competition will be focused on storyboard work, exclusively. After the first hour of competition students will be allowed access to the computer workstations.
5. Competitors should note that model sheets **MUST** include front, profile (side), and  $\frac{3}{4}$  (perspective) views of the character.



6. Storyboards will be collected at 12:00 p.m. on the first day of competition. Storyboards will be returned to each team after they have been copied by the Provincial Technical Committee (PTC). Upon return of the sheets, minor modifications will be permitted.
7. Competitors should demonstrate their knowledge of the 12 principles of animation in their project (*Listed Below*).
8. Nowhere within the presentation should the name of the students, their school or province appear.
9. *Teams must be able to export a playable video (.MOV or .MP4 - Adobe Media Encoder is recommended for compression) within the time allowed* so that judging can commence at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 7, 2026.
10. Competitors will be able to record their own sounds using a microphone (competitors must supply own microphone). Teams may also bring sound effects or music to the competition; portable memory devices may be reviewed by PTC members at the event to ensure that memory devices contain only the intended music and sound effects. Music and sound must be used with permission. No popular music will be permitted.
11. The teams will work independently. Instructors and/or observers will give no assistance and are not allowed in the competition area except with the permission of a PTC member.
12. Judges may decide to take a walk-through on the first day of competition to see what teams are creating. They may also look at project files or storyboards on Wednesday afternoon. A 'showing' of the completed videos will be held at the completion of judging, prior to the main Skills Awards Ceremony.
13. While this is an extremely safe working environment, there are environmental stresses. Students should bring layered clothing to allow for heat or cold, earbuds or headphones that allow for quiet or for the playing of music, and anything else they may feel will help them to sit for two days at a computer, in a folding chair, in a 'large hall' environment.



## SCHEDULE

### Day 1

<b>8:00 AM – 8:10 AM</b>	Project details provided
<b>8:10 AM – 9:00 AM</b>	Storyboarding and Model Sheets
<b>9:00 AM – 10:00 AM</b>	Storyboards can continue to be worked on, but production can start. Storyboards must be handed in by 12:00 PM
<b>10:00 AM – 4:30 PM</b>	Production Time

### Day 2

<b>8:00 AM – 1:00 PM</b>	Production Time
<b>1:00 PM</b>	Competition ends and students begin to submit their completed animations to allow judging to begin.
<b>4:00 PM</b>	Public viewing of completed animations

There will be a 60-minute lunch break each day from Noon until 1:00 p.m. Competitors can choose how much of this time is taken for lunch.

## EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS

### Equipment and Materials supplied by the Committee:

- Table and Chair

### Equipment and Materials Competitors Must Supply:

- Competitors are required to bring their own device and software for the competition. Each competitor can choose their own device and software so their workflow and process are what they are familiar with.
- If competitors are bringing a computer or laptop from their school (instead of their personal computer), please ensure that the computer is unlocked so documents and possibly software can be saved/installed to the hard drive and technology support can be provided onsite. This may require access to CMOS settings.
- Students may bring one computer per team member, and one spare machine per team of two. This second machine can be used for rendering purposes. Only three machines are allowed per team.
- Competitors must provide their own power bar and extension cords.

### Optimum Hardware Requirements:

- Intel Graphics Workstation i7 Quad Core Processors
- 1 TB HD



- 16Gb RAM
- Dedicated video card (suggested 2GB) as approved by Autodesk
- Flat Panel Display 1920 X 1080
- Sound card
- Operating System –Windows 7 or 10 64 Bit
- WiFi enabled computer system

**Suggested software:**

- 3D Software: 3D Studio Max, Maya, Blender
- 2D Software: Adobe CC Animate, ToonBoom Harmony, ToonBoom, Clip Studio Paint EX
- Storyboard Pro

**Video and Graphic Software:**

- Adobe Photoshop, Adobe After Effects, and Adobe Premiere Pro

**Viewing Software:**

- VLC

**Additional Equipment and material suggested:**

- Tablet and driver (Driver compatible with your system)
- Headphones
- Pencils and erasers

Teams are required to contact the technical chair by **April 20, 2026**, at [emilyradvanszky@gmail.com](mailto:emilyradvanszky@gmail.com) to advise the committee what software they will be using if it is not listed above. Competitors should be prepared to use the software provided by the committee if installing their desired software is unsuccessful.

**Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Information**

Competitors are required to bring their own device and software that meets or exceeds the stated requirements for their competition. Each competitor can choose their own device and software, so their workflow and process are what they are familiar with. If competitors are bringing a computer or laptop from their school (instead of their personal computer), please ensure that the computer is unlocked allowing for USB sticks, documents and possibly software to be saved/installed to the hard drive, and so that IT support can be properly provided onsite. This may require administrator privileges to access the CMOS settings. All USB sticks provided for competition use will be cleared and inspected prior to being used.

**Note:** computers must remain inside the competition area for the duration of the competition from the time the competition begins on Day 1 to when the competition ends on Day 2 (including overnight). Competitors may supply their own locking cables if they wish.

**Equipment Set-up and Testing (for BYOD events)**

Before the Opening Ceremonies and registration, competitors who are competing in technology-based events that are a BYOD event will be given an opportunity to set up and test their equipment to ensure it is fully functional and networked (where required) prior to the start of the competition. Only accredited competitors and educators will be permitted into the competition site for equipment drop off and testing. Students who miss the equipment setup and testing opportunity will need to set up their equipment AFTER the mandatory COMPETITOR ORIENTATION time on the day of competition. Any time that is required to set up and test their



equipment on the competition day will be part of their overall competition time. The competition time for these competitors will NOT be extended.

**Equipment Set-Up and Testing will be held on Tuesday May 5, 2026, at 4:00PM.**

### Competition Specific Rules

The following Competition Specific rules along with SCA's overall Policies and Procedures provide specific details in competition areas that may vary from one another. Any additional contest rules will be reviewed during the Competitor Orientation.

Topic/Task	Contest Specific Rule
Competition Logistics	<p>Competitors are <b>not allowed</b> to change their character design from the submission design on the day of competition.</p> <p>Competitors <b>must</b> complete a minimum of 30 seconds of animation.</p> <p>Competitors <b>must</b> use royalty free sound effects or music to accompany their animation.</p> <p>Final submissions <b>must</b> include the name of the team and indicate whether they are 2D or 3D.</p>
Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)	Competitors <b>cannot</b> use AI to develop/generate any of the submitted work for any aspects of the competition.

### Clothing Requirement

Appropriate work clothing must be worn to compete. All clothing must be neat and clean and free of rips and tears. Casual wear such as shorts will not be permitted. Close Toed Shoes must be worn.

### SAFETY

The health, safety, and welfare of all individuals involved with Skills Canada Alberta are of vital importance. Safety is a condition of participation with Skills Canada Alberta and shall not be sacrificed for the sake of expediency. At the discretion of the judges and technical committees, any competitor can be denied the right to participate should they not have the required proper safety equipment and/or act in an unsafe manner that can cause harm to themselves or others.

### JUDGING CRITERIA

#### Point Breakdown: Total /64

The final animations from each team will be viewed and assessed individually by the judges. Tabulation sheets will be given to the members of the PTC for verification of scores. In the event of a tie, judges will be asked to confer and come to a consensus on the winners. Judges will direct any questions to members of the PTC only.



2D Animation Rubric				
Storytelling and Planning (20 Marks)				
	1	2	3	4
<b>Storyboard: Clarity and Completeness</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• storyboard covers all elements to be communicated to the audience: character, setting, motion, sequencing, camera shots, transitions, dialogue, and sound</li> </ul>	The storyboard is <u>incomplete</u> ; you have trouble understanding the story and how it's being told	A <u>partial</u> storyboard was provided: you understand the story but not how it's to be told	The storyboard is <u>sufficient</u> , you understand the story and how other elements work together to tell it well	The storyboard is <u>in-depth</u> : most people could follow it to produce a quality animation that follows the author's vision
<b>Storyboard and Model Sheet:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the final animation reflects the planned storyline</li> </ul>	There is only a <u>vague connection</u> between the planning and final animation	There is a <u>credible relationship</u> between the planning and the animation	The animation demonstrates a <u>good connection</u> to the planning	The final animation has a <u>clear connection</u> to the planning
<b>Story:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>elements</u> (character, setting, motion, sequencing, camera shots, transitions, dialogue, and sound) <u>complement the storyline</u></li> </ul>	There is <u>little evidence</u> that elements were chosen to complement the story	Some elements <u>did relate</u> to the story	<u>Most</u> elements <u>complemented</u> the story	The elements chosen were <u>insightful and memorable</u> complements to the story
<b>Story:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• made <u>use of the theme</u></li> </ul>	The story is a <u>minimal</u> nod to the theme	The story is a <u>general</u> reflection of the theme	The story is a <u>clear</u> statement of the theme	The story is an <u>insightful</u> application of the theme
<b>Story:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>structure and engagement</u></li> </ul>	<u>Little structure or emotional appeal</u> to the story	The story has <u>interesting moments</u> or action	The story <u>builds and holds our interest</u>	<u>We take an emotional journey</u> with this story from beginning to climax to final resolution
Story Telling Total				

Character Design (12 Marks)				
	1	2	3	4
<b>Character quality:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a judgment of the best individual character in terms of <u>structure</u>, <u>proportion</u>, and <u>appeal</u></li></ul>	(Character quality is worth double marks)			
	The character is <u>vague</u> or 'unlikely'	The character is believable	The character has <u>obvious appeal</u> or <u>personality</u>	The character design is <u>insightful</u> and <u>engaging</u>
<b>Characters</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>look and style</u></li></ul>	Appear to be of little or <u>no relevance</u> to the story	Are <u>related</u> to the story	Are <u>useful additions</u> to the story	Add to the story in <u>specific</u> and <u>meaningful</u> ways
Character Design Total				
Aesthetics (16 Marks)				
	1	2	3	4
<b>Colour:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>effective use of</u></li></ul>	Colour use is <u>random</u> or <u>distracting</u>	Colour use is <u>basic</u> or <u>unobtrusive</u>	Colours and colour theme <u>complement</u> the animation	<u>Effective</u> and <u>purposeful colour use</u> adds to the story
<b>Lighting and shapes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>help <u>create desired mood</u></li></ul>	Lighting and shapes <u>have no relation</u> to the mood	Lighting and shapes are <u>a minor contribution</u> to the mood	Lighting and shapes <u>facilitate the mood in a real way</u>	Lighting and shapes are <u>significant pieces of an immersive feeling</u>
<b>Sound:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>effective use of</u></li></ul>	Sound use is <u>random</u> or <u>distracting</u>	Sound use is <u>basic</u> or <u>unobtrusive</u>	Sounds <u>complement</u> the animation	<u>Effective</u> and <u>purposeful sound use</u> adds to the story
<b>Design:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>unity</u> between the characters, environment, and props</li></ul>	There is <u>little or no unity</u>	Unity is <u>somewhat lacking</u>	There is <u>sufficient</u> unity to communicate a style	There is <u>complete unity</u> and a <u>strong style</u>
Aesthetics Total				
Animation (16 Marks)				
	1	2	3	4
<b>Camera use:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>intentional and effective use</u> of camera shots, angles, or movements</li></ul>	Camera shots, angles, or movements are	Shots, angles, or movements are obviously	Shots, angles, or movements <u>add impact</u> to various	Shots, angles, or movements <u>are a strong visual storytelling</u>



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	absent or <u>unintentional</u>	<u>planned and work</u>	parts of the animation	<u>component</u> throughout this animation
<b>Animation principles:</b> • <u>effective use of</u>	Basic animation principles are <u>absent</u>	<u>Some use of</u> basic principles	The use of animation principles is <u>obvious</u>	Animation principles <u>add significantly to the story</u>
<b>Movement:</b> • of <u>characters or objects</u>	Is <u>stilted or jerky</u>	Is <u>basic and workmanlike</u> in most places	Is <u>consistently good</u> throughout	Is <u>fluid and convincing</u>
<b>Acting:</b> • characters' <u>expressions or posing</u> provoke empathy or emotion in the audience	The characters lack <u>expression</u> or expressive movement	<u>Expression or movement begins to live</u> characters	The <u>characters</u> are <u>convincing</u> in their expression or movement	The <u>characters</u> are <u>captivating</u> in their expression and movement
<b>Animation Total</b>				
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>				

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Skills Canada Alberta Regional and Provincial Rules and Regulations

[Regional and Provincial Rules and Regulations](#)

### Skillz & Thrillz Podcast

Check out our podcast – Skillz & Thrillz: Alberta's Trade & Tech Youth Podcast. Our talented alumni share tips and tricks on how to succeed in competitions and your career! Their insights can help you prepare for your Skills journey, and who knows, you might just be a future guest! <https://skillsalberta.com/student-resources/skillz-thrillz-albertas-trade-tech-youth-podcast/>

### Project Change at the Competition

Where a Test Project has been circulated to competitors in advance, the PTC can change the project up to a maximum of 30% of the work content for the competition.

### Competitor Registration

Registration for the Provincial Skills Canada Competition (PSCC) will open online on January 14, 2026 @ 3:30 PM. Please refer to this competitions event page for additional registration and competition information: <https://skillsalberta.com/competition/>

### Lunch

Lunch for accredited competitors will be provided by Skills Canada Alberta.

### Parking & Venue Maps

Parking is FREE for all attendees.



Attendees **MUST** register for FREE parking by clicking the below link. Attendees can pre-register their vehicle at anytime prior to the PSCC or register onsite at the PSCC.

<https://www.offstreet.io/events/CBLHM7U1>

<http://edmontonexpocentre.com/attend/parking/>

### **Opening Ceremonies / Competitor Onsite Registration**

Opening Ceremonies for the PSCC will take place on Tuesday May 5, 2026, at 6:00 PM in Hall D of the Edmonton EXPO Centre. Admission is free, and everyone is welcome to attend. It is important to note that competitor registration will open immediately following the Opening Ceremonies.

### **Awards Ceremony**

The Awards Ceremony will take place on Thursday May 7, 2026, at 6:30 PM in Hall D of the Edmonton EXPO Centre. Admission is free and everyone is welcome to attend. The Awards Ceremony will be shown live at <http://skillsalberta.com/>

### **Team Alberta Information**

Team Alberta will be selected at the PSCC Awards Ceremony. Gold medalists will then be eligible to participate at the Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC) on May 27- May 30, 2026, in Toronto, Ont. It is recommended that competitors review and become familiar with the SCNC contest description and project at <https://www.skillscompetencescanada.com/en/event/skills-canada-national-competition-2026/>

During the PSCC Awards Ceremony on Thursday May 7, 2026, Gold medalists will be given their Team Alberta information package and will confirm their participation in the SCNC. Students must be present at the Awards Ceremony to claim their position on Team Alberta. If the Gold medalist is not able to attend SCNC, the next highest-ranking individual will be asked to participate. If a student is not able to attend the Awards Ceremony a letter confirming the student's interest in Team Alberta participation must be emailed to [javierad@skillsalberta.com](mailto:javierad@skillsalberta.com) prior to the start of competition on May 6, 2026.

**Please prepare your students in advance to accept a position on Team Alberta and review how your school will support their participation.**

**Please see this link for additional Team Alberta information:** <https://skillsalberta.com/team-alberta/>

### **Questions?**

Please contact Mike Sury [MikeS@SkillsAlberta.com](mailto:MikeS@SkillsAlberta.com)

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Emily Radvanszky

Rahma Maqsood

TEAM



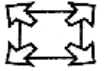











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## STORYBOARD SYMBOLS

Camera Movements		Character Movements	
	Racking		Tilt Up
	Zoom Out		Tilt Down
	Zoom In		Pedestal Down
	Pan Right Pan Left		Pedestal Up
	Dolly In		Track Right Track Left
	Dolly Out		
			Turning Right Turning Left
			Moving Right Moving Left
			Moving Down Moving Up

**MODEL SHEETS**

<b>Perspective (3/4 Front)</b>	<b>Front</b>
<b>Side</b>	<b>Back</b>



## **12 PRINCIPLES OF ANIMATION**

**THE 12 BASIC PRINCIPLES OF ANIMATION** Paraphrased from the "Illusion Of Life" by Frank Thomas & Ollie Johnston. (pp.47-69) Look these up and read the original version for a complete understanding.

### **1. SQUASH AND STRETCH**

This action gives the illusion of weight and volume to a character as it moves. Also squash and stretch is useful in animating dialogue and doing facial expressions. How extreme the use of squash and stretch is, depends on what is required in animating the scene. Usually it's broader in a short style of picture and subtler in a feature. It is used in all forms of character animation from a bouncing ball to the body weight of a person walking. This is the most important element you will be required to master and will be used often.

### **2. ANTICIPATION**

This movement prepares the audience for a major action the character is about to perform, such as, starting to run, jump or change expression. A dancer does not just leap off the floor. A backwards motion occurs before the forward action is executed. The backward motion is the anticipation. A comic effect can be done by not using anticipation after a series of gags that used anticipation. Almost all real action has major or minor anticipation such as a pitcher's wind-up or a golfers' back swing. Feature animation is often less broad than short animation unless a scene requires it to develop a characters personality.

### **3. STAGING**

A pose or action should clearly communicate to the audience the attitude, mood, reaction or idea of the character as it relates to the story and continuity of the story line. The effective use of long, medium, or close up shots, as well as camera angles also helps in telling the story. There is a limited amount of time in a film, so each sequence, scene and frame of film must relate to the overall story. Do not confuse the audience with too many actions at once. Use one action clearly stated to get the idea across, unless you are animating a scene that is to depict clutter and confusion. Staging directs the audience's attention to the story or idea being told. Care must be taken in background design so it isn't obscuring the animation or competing with it due to excess detail behind the animation. Background and animation should work together as a pictorial unit in a scene.

### **4. STRAIGHT AHEAD AND POSE TO POSE ANIMATION**

Straight ahead animation starts at the first drawing and works drawing to drawing to the end of a scene. You can lose size, volume, and proportions with this method, but it does have spontaneity and freshness. Fast, wild action scenes are done this way. Pose to Pose is more planned out and charted with key drawings done at intervals throughout the scene. Size, volumes, and proportions are controlled better this way, as is the action. The lead animator will turn charting and keys over to his assistant. An assistant can be better used with this method so that the animator doesn't have to draw every drawing in a scene. An animator can do more scenes this way and concentrate on the planning of the animation. Many scenes use a bit of both methods of animation.

### **5. FOLLOW THROUGH AND OVERLAPPING ACTION**

When the main body of the character stops all other parts continue to catch up to the main mass of the character, such as arms, long hair, clothing, coat tails or a dress, floppy ears or a long tail (these follow the path of action). Nothing stops all at once. This is follow through. Overlapping action is when the character

changes direction while his clothes or hair continues forward. The character is going in a new direction, to be followed, a number of frames later, by his clothes in the new direction. "DRAG," in animation, for example, would be when Goofy starts to run, but his head, ears, upper body, and clothes do not keep up with his legs. In features, this type of action is done more subtly. Example: When Snow White starts to dance, her dress does not begin to move with her immediately but catches up a few frames later. Long hair and animal tail will also be handled in the same manner. Timing becomes critical to the effectiveness of drag and the overlapping action.

## **6. SLOW-OUT AND SLOW-IN**

As action starts, we have more drawings near the starting pose, one or two in the middle, and more drawings near the next pose. Fewer drawings make the action faster and more drawings make the action slower. Slow-ins and slow-outs soften the action, making it more life-like. For a gag action, we may omit some slow-out or slow-ins for shock appeal or the surprise element. This will give more snap to the scene.

## **7. ARCS**

All actions, with few exceptions (such as the animation of a mechanical device), follow an arc or a slightly circular path. This is especially true of the human figure and the action of animals. Arcs give animation a more natural action and better flow. Think of natural movements in the terms of a pendulum swinging. All arm movement, head turns and even eye movements are executed on an arc.

## **8. SECONDARY ACTION**

This action adds to and enriches the main action and adds more dimension to the character animation, supplementing and/or re-enforcing the main action. Example: A character is angrily walking toward another character. The walk is forceful, aggressive, and forward leaning. The leg action is just short of a stomping walk. The secondary action is a few strong gestures of the arms working with the walk. Also, the possibility of dialogue being delivered at the same time with tilts and turns of the head to accentuate the walk and dialogue, but not so much as to distract from the walk action. All of these actions should work together in support of one another. Think of the walk as the primary action and arm swings, head bounce and all other actions of the body as secondary or supporting action.

## **9. TIMING**

Expertise in timing comes best with experience and personal experimentation, using the trial and error method in refining technique. The basics are: more drawings between poses slow and smooth the action. Fewer drawings make the action faster and crisper. A variety of slow and fast timing within a scene adds texture and interest to the movement. Most animation is done on twos (one drawing photographed on two frames of film) or on ones (one drawing photographed on each frame of film). Twos are used most of the time, and ones are used during camera moves such as trucks, pans and occasionally for subtle and quick dialogue animation. Also, there is timing in the acting of a character to establish mood, emotion, and reaction to another character or to a situation. Studying movement of actors and performers on stage and in films is useful when animating human or animal characters. This frame by frame examination of film footage will aid you in understanding timing for animation. This is a great way to learn from the others.

## **10. EXAGGERATION**

Exaggeration is not extreme distortion of a drawing or extremely broad, violent action all the time. It's like a caricature of facial features, expressions, poses, attitudes and actions. Action traced from live action film can be accurate, but stiff and mechanical. In feature animation, a character must move more broadly to look natural. The same is true of facial expressions, but the action should not be as broad as in a short cartoon style. Exaggeration in a walk or an eye movement or even a head turn will give your film more appeal. Use good taste and common sense to keep from becoming too theatrical and excessively animated.

## **11. SOLID DRAWING**

The basic principles of drawing form, weight, volume solidity and the illusion of three dimension apply to animation as it does to academic drawing. The way you draw cartoons, you draw in the classical sense, using pencil sketches and drawings for reproduction of life. You transform these into color and movement giving the characters the illusion of three-and four-dimensional life. Three dimensional is movement in space. The fourth dimension is movement in time.

## **12. APPEAL**

A live performer has charisma. An animated character has appeal. Appealing animation does not mean just being cute and cuddly. All characters have to have appeal whether they are heroic, villainous, comic or cute. Appeal, as you will use it, includes an easy to read design, clear drawing, and personality development that will capture and involve the audience's interest. Early cartoons were basically a series of gags strung together on a main theme. Over the years, the artists have learned that to produce a feature there was a need for story continuity, character development and a higher quality of artwork throughout the entire production. Like all forms of story telling, the feature has to appeal to the mind as well as to the eye.