EQUESTRIA GIRLS SHORTS - "THE FINALS COUNTDOWN"-

Music Video Short- Beat Sheet

By Gillian Berrow

LOGLINE: Finals are looming. The girls decide to put their noses to the grindstone and take part in an intense, study boot-camp helmed by Twilight Sparkle in order to prepare. But each girl learns differently and Twilight must figure out the best way to help each of them. By the end, finals are a total breeze!

SONG CONCEPT: When we put our heads together and help each other out, we can achieve greater things (and pass our tests).

Song references: "The Final Countdown" by Europe, "Getcha Head in the Game" from High School Musical.

VISUAL CONCEPT: Sporty training montage, but with study skills. "From students to masters."

STORY BEATS:

We open on the MANE SEVEN in a class together. The TEACHER points to a calendar on the wall. ZOOM IN to reveal that the date is circled in red.

TEACHER
And I hope you're all prepared,
because final exams are in two weeks!

PAN ACROSS the nervous faces of the girls. As we pass each one, they look down the line to next one. At the end is TWILIGHT SPARKLE. She looks determined and confident. Phew!

TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Don't worry, girls! We are going to
ace these finals.

CUT TO:

TWILIGHT'S BEDROOM: Twilight is wearing a SWEATBAND around her head and a WHISTLE hangs from her neck. She has a CLIPBOARD. She marches back and forth like an excited drill sergeant.

Twilight points to a HUGE WHITEBOARD. On it, there are drawings that look almost like sports plays. The study plan. The girls nod in response. Twilight blows into her whistle.

CLOSE UP: Hands sharpening PENCILS, straightening FLASHCARDS, grabbing CALCULATORS, cracking knuckles.

MONTAGE: The girls taking part in a series of academic study exercises. As the montage goes on, the cuts become faster.

- CUT TO: Sunset Shimmer and Rainbow Dash face Twilight in a game show style setup, standing at two PODIUMS. Sunset points to a topic and Twilight reads the question. Rainbow Dash and Sunset both hit the buzzers. They light up. Sunset makes a guess. Wrong! A huge red X blinks. Sunset "facepalms".

- CUT TO: CHS track. Rarity and Applejack do PUSH-UPS over OPEN BOOKS. Rarity stops, makes a pouty face. Applejack crosses her arms and shakes her head, annoyed as Rarity fans herself with the book. We ZOOM INTO the page and it becomes...

- FLASHCARDS. ANGEL BUNNY holds them up (sitting outside on the grass). Fluttershy answers and Angel shakes his head "no". In the background, Pinkie Pie throws a bunch of flashcards into the air and skips through them. They RAIN DOWN to reveal...

- Twilight's STOPWATCH. She hits the button and the time starts! We pull out to see the girls in Twilight's room, all scribbling furiously on their papers. Twilight presses STOP and the girls all look up, breathing hard. Twilight writes the answer on the board. The girls slump down.

CLOSE IN on Twilight's concerned expression-- what is she doing wrong here? We PAN ACROSS the girls' discouraged faces until we get to Rainbow Dash twirling her pencil. That's it! Twilight gets an idea.

CUT BACK TO:

- GAME SHOW SETUP: This time, the rest of the Mane Seven cheer on Sunset from the "audience". Sunset gets it right! The girls run up from the audience and surround them. Of course-- Sunset needed <u>emotional support</u>! Twilight grins and puts a check mark next to Sunset's Cutie Mark on her CLIPBOARD list.

- CHS TRACK: Rainbow Dash and Applejack do push-ups over the open books. They pop up and start running back and forth across the track, writing on white boards set up at either end. They needed <u>physical activity and competition!</u> Twilight puts a check next to Dash and AJ's Cutie Marks.

- OUTSIDE ON THE GRASS: Angel Bunny holds up a flashcard. We PULL OUT to reveal that Fluttershy is surrounded by BIRDS and CRITTERS. They tweet and sing... and she answers it right! She needed <u>animals!</u> Twilight holds up a "flashcard BALLOON" (scribbles on the outside) for Pinkie Pie. Pinkie guesses, then pops the balloon.

The answer is inside, along with confetti-- and it's right! *
Pinkie needed fun! Twilight cheers. *

- RARITY'S ROOM: CLOSE UP on Twi's stopwatch again. It pulls *
away to reveal Rarity sewing furiously. RED GLASSES are on *
her face. Twi stops the timer and Rarity holds up her fabric-- *
now covered in complex equations! Rarity needed creativity to *
learn. Twi checks off Rarity's Cutie Mark. *

- CLOSE UPS (in quick succession): Hands slamming the
buzzers, turning pages of books, shuffling flashcards,
popping balloons, sewing equations onto fabric, writing *
furiously...

- WIDEN TO REVEAL that this time, the pencils were held by
the now-confident Mane Seven actually in class on the day of *
the final exams! One by one, they finish and drop their
pencils like a "mic drop".

The BELL RINGS.

They did it! They all smile and laugh as we...

FADE OUT.