

Tips for Creating Standout Multimedia Projects Transcript

If you are new to recording audio, editing audio, or using images and video, this short video will provide some helpful tips to avoid the common mistakes that separate the novice from the pro.

Getting things right during recording will make editing so much easier. Always do a short test recording before you begin and listen to it with headphones to really hear the quality. This practice will quickly inform you of the recording conditions of the location. Listen for echoes. Microphone position being too close or too far. Equipment malfunctions causing crackles and pops, and background noise such as unwanted voices or traffic sounds. To get the best recording, make sure you have a quiet place to record. If you're recording a voiceover and have access to a recording booth like those here at the Student Multimedia Design Center, then schedule a session. If you don't have access to recording studio, then try to find a quiet area at home to get the best quality at home. Try recording under heavy blanket or in a closet full of clothing.

Record multiple takes. You may get it right the first time, but it's always a good idea to record a second, third, and even a fourth time. You may noticed during editing that your good take has a distracting background noise you didn't notice during recording, or you sound much more confident in your third take than you did in the first. You'll be happy have the option of extra recordings to use during editing. If you stumble over your words during the recording, pause speaking for a moment to allow for a gap in the recording and continue on speaking when you ready. These pauses can be edited out, so take as many as you need. Leave a few seconds of silence at the start and end of your recording. You may accidentally start recording after you started speaking or stop recording before you're finished speaking. This is likely to happen during the first recording you attempt. Depending on your equipment, there may be noticeable sound when the recording starts or stops. Your finger pressing the record button may be picked up by the microphone or the device me beep and recording starts and stops. These sounds may be on the recording, right as you begin or stop speaking and editing them out may cut off your voice.

Your recordings, music, images, and other media are the ingredients. And editing is how you mix them together and prepare them. Editing means trimming your recordings to remove mistakes or long silences, and using editing software tools to make your audio shine. There is a lot of room for error in editing, but these tips will help you avoid them.

Editing around the waveform. Most video and audio editing applications use a waveform view of your audio as you're editing. When editing around audio, pay close attention to where your editor's play head is. Watch to play head is you listen to the recording, so you become familiar with how sound is represented visually. Pay attention to where the playhead is when trimming, cutting, and deleting to make sure you're moving and keeping what you want. Get to know your editing software. There are lots of editing software options out there, but there's some universal or basic editing tools that would be really helpful to know.

Amplify. If your audio is too quiet or too loud, the amplify tool allows you to increase or decrease the volume of the entire track by measurable decibels. Noise reduction. Sometimes there may be a

noticeable background noise throughout your audio, such as a background hiss or harm caused by poor recording conditions. Using noise reduction can go a long way and make the noise less distracting. Compressor. If your audio has cracking, distortion it loud moments, and reducing the volume makes the rest of the audio too quiet to hear, you need to compress the sounds. Dynamic range. Compression evens out the volume of your audio.

Low resolution images or video results in low-quality. Having blurry or autofocus images can really distract from your narrative. The best way to ensure that it doesn't happen is to select photos with the highest resolution. The higher the resolution, the better the quality of the image when it is blown up onto a larger screen will be. So it won't get blurry or hard to make out when it's seen. Try to find images with dimensions in the thousands rather than the hundreds. Check the image file properties in Windows, or get info on Mac to check the dimensions of the images you're planning to use.

When putting your video together, you may put background music, sound effects, or other sounds in the background. If set to full volume these extra sounds or compete with your main audio and drown it out. Whatever you want the audience to focus on should be the loudest. Any other sounds should be as quiet as possible to act as ambient noise. You can mix the audio levels in your editing software to ensure there's no audio conflict in your project.

The pacing of the video is very important. yet hard to describe. Everything on screen must have a purpose. If there is a large amount of empty space or nothing driving the viewer to the point, it's best to cut it. The opposite is also true. If things are flying by too fast, audience can't keep up. It takes time to determine what the pacing for your video will need to be. But the more you work with it, the easier it will be to understand. You recorded, imported, arranged, and edited you media.

The final thing you need to do is export or publish a video. This means taking the project and turning it into a file that can be shared and submitted. It is a common confusion that your project file is your video file. But that is not the case. If you do not export the video file and you try to share your project file, you might damage your project file and lose all of your hard work. Different video editing software have different procedures for exporting a project to a video file. But there are some universal options. If you have an assignment or project guideline that states the form at the video needs to be, refer to that information as you select the settings when you export. If unsure, export your video as MP4, since it is the most universally accepted video format. Always be sure to watch the export video before uploading and sharing it. So let's recap.

When working on a multimedia project, getting things right when recording will prevent a lot of trouble later. Getting familiar with editing basics like waveforms and correction tools will make your audio sound it's best. Low-quality images will look blurry and ugly when viewed on a larger screen. Using music and sound effects makes your project dynamic, but too much can be distracting. Make sure the pace of your video allows the viewer to understand the content as it appears. Finally, know the settings your video needs to be when you're ready to present it.