

# HIVE Digital Media: Podcasting & Video Animation Curriculum

## General Information

### Description

The objective of this curriculum is to equip students the necessary technical skills and abilities required to express their affinities in different forms of media such as an audio podcast or video animation.

Converting thoughts and ideas into a form of digital media requires both creativity and consistency for the audience to understand and relate to the content. Students will learn how to use Audacity to create podcasts along with iMovie to design video animations. By learning how to create podcasts and animations, students will be able to express their affinities in a creative and abstract way in form of digital media. This curriculum consists of project-based activities relies heavily on the student's affinity.

### Expectations and Goals

This curriculum will equip students with a solid foundation in podcasting and video animation, expose students to the community and culture of media, and familiarize students with the concept of storyboarding and storytelling.

## Materials

### Required Materials

#### Software

- Audacity (<http://www.audacityteam.org/download/>) is a free, easy-to-use, multi-track audio editor and recorder. You can use Audacity to record live audio, edit sound files, and add effects.
- iMovie (<https://www.apple.com/mac/imovie/>) is a powerful video editing software that lets organize all your clips, turn them into your favorite films or trailers.
- Movie Maker - Windows Alternative (<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/movie-maker>)

#### Equipment

1 computer (Mac or PC) per student

Earphones with microphone (External or Internal, Apple EarPods with mic is preferred)

Keyboard and Mouse

## Optional Tutorials

iMovie Tutorials (<https://www.apple.com/support/mac-apps/imovie/>)

Audacity Tutorials (<http://manual.audacityteam.org/o/man/tutorials.html>)

iMovie Video Guide on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9LcLENceNE>)

Audacity Video Guide on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aCisC3sHneM>)

## Sample Work

### Professional

NPR: National Public Radio (<http://www.npr.org/podcasts/>)

Pixar Storytelling with Animations (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSbkn6mCfXE>)

iTunes Podcast Directory (<https://itunes.apple.com/us/genre/podcasts/id26?mt=2>)

NPR: TED Radio Hour (<http://www.npr.org/podcasts/510298/ted-radio-hour>)

### Student

TKU Podcast Workshop (<http://www.techkidsunlimited.org/project/2015-summer-class-podcast/>)

TKU iStopMotion (<http://www.techkidsunlimited.org/project/erics-istop-movie/>)

## Podcasting

### Introduction

In each lesson, students will learn the steps required to create an audio podcast. Students will understand fundamental storytelling concepts and the developmental stages of writing a script. By introducing and equipping students to the domain of media, students will be able to share, express, and quantify their ideas and affinities to their peers on a bigger scale without the limitation of physical interactions.

In addition to creating a podcast, students will learn how to conduct and carry formal interviews and candid discussions. By the end of this lesson, students will have the required technical knowledge and resources to share their own podcast on an online channel.

### Teacher Brief

The objective as a teacher is to support and provide resources to the students so that they can learn by applying steps carried out in the lesson and by collaborating with peers for assistance, which in turn will convert the classroom into a digital studio type of environment.

## Lessons

### Storytelling

- 1.1 Writing a story
- 1.2 Choosing a topic
- 1.3 Creating a script
- 1.4 Thinking out loud

### Audacity

- 2.1 Getting started with Audacity
- 2.2 Recording live audio
- 2.3 Cutting and editing audio clips
- 2.4 Adding sound effects and transitions
- 2.5 Exporting and Importing Media

## Vocabulary

- Podcast: a digital audio file or video file or recording, usually part of a themed series, that can be downloaded from a website to a media player or computer (dictionary.com)
- Script: the written text of a stage play, screenplay, or broadcast; specifically: the one used in production or performance
- Episode: a television show, radio show, etc., that is one part of a series
- Waveform: a usually graphic representation of the shape of a wave that indicates its characteristics
- Timeline: a table listing important events for successive years within a particular historical period
- Overdub: to transfer (recorded sound) onto a recording that bears sound recorded earlier in order to produce a combined effect

## Storytelling

Before getting onto the computers to start a project, students will need to choose a topic to talk about to the audience. This topic should interest the student and should be informative. Some examples used by students in the past include the transit systems, a trip to Europe, and a video game reviews.

Similar to any story or essay, students should start off by introducing the topic and the presenter, if applicable. Eventually, the script should transition into the body where the presenter can discuss the topic in greater detail and then wrap everything up with a conclusion.

Encourage students to talk about the topic in specific detail by painting a picture with words and by covering significant events such as past, present, and future of their topic.

## Interviewing

Depending on the topic, students will want to conduct interviews to obtain more information or carry out interviews to discuss their topic with another person. Whether the podcast is candid or more formal should be up to the student. Encouraging students to choose their own topic, theme, and setting will allow them to be creative to explore the various options.

## Additional Information and Resources

Submission Requirements for iTunes (<https://itunespartner.apple.com/en/podcasts/overview>)

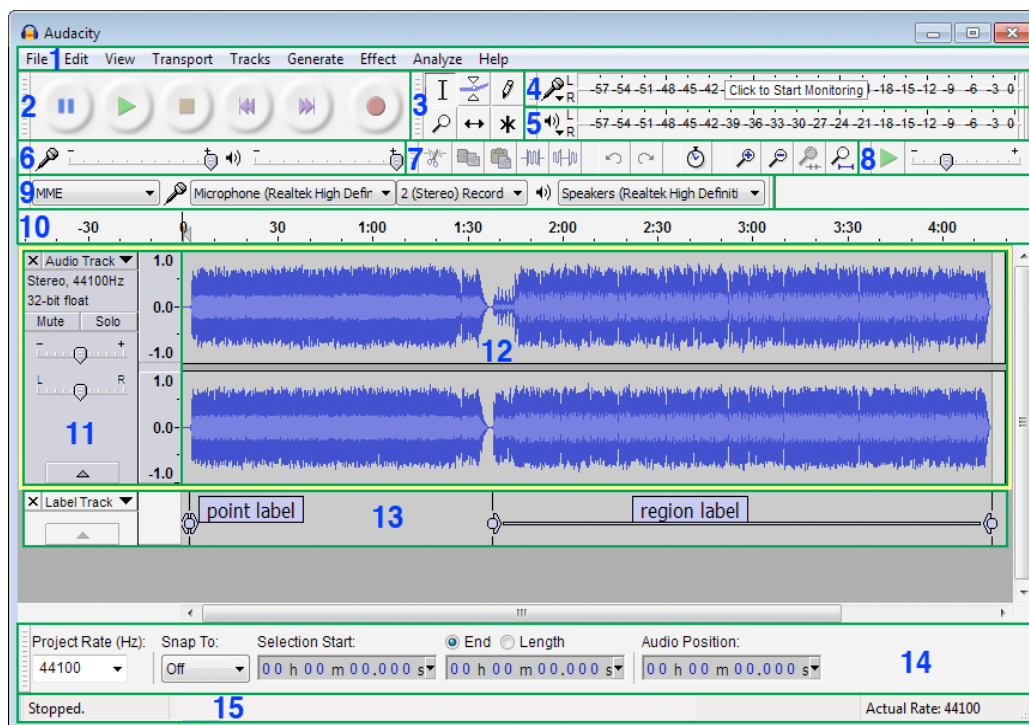
Open Source Sounds (<https://www.freesound.org/browse/>)

Free Sound Effects (<http://www.freesfx.co.uk/sfx/>)

Audible: Audiobooks Trial (<http://www.audible.com/>)

## Content



### Audacity Project Window

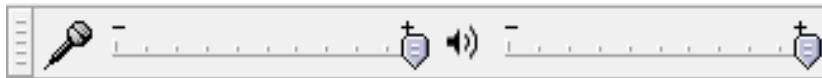


## Getting started with Audacity

- Launch Audacity



- Locate the Device Toolbar
- Select the correct Recording Device and Playback Device
- Ensure the inputs and outputs are properly configured by starting a recording
  -  Record
  -  Stop
- Adjust the recording volume using the Volume Slider





## External Audio Files

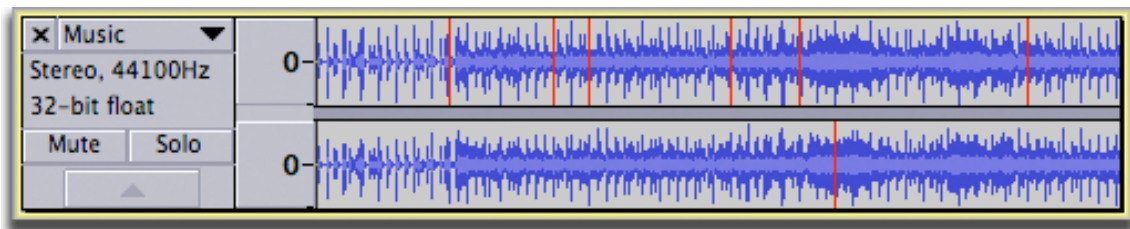
- Please make a separate folder for each student so that they can save their audio files

## Saving Project


- File > Save > “Choose Location/Folder”

## Recording live audio

- Press the  Record Button to start recording. Press the  Stop to Stop Recording
- To expand the audio waveform, View > Show Clipping



## Cutting and editing audio clips

- To Edit an Audio clip, Highlight or click the clip to Select
- Use the  Selection Tool to define a start and end for your snip. You can also use the Selection Tool to delete any unwanted audio from any segment
- If a portion of the clip is too loud or low, you can normalize the audio by Effects > Normalize

### **Importing Media (Effects, Music)**

- Create a personal project folder to organize all your media files
- Click File > Import > Audio or drag the audio clip to your Timeline

### **Sound effects and transitions**

- Sound effects can be added on top an audio clip or be included as a transition

([http://manual.audacityteam.org/o/man/index\\_of\\_effects\\_generators\\_and\\_analyzers.html#effects](http://manual.audacityteam.org/o/man/index_of_effects_generators_and_analyzers.html#effects))

- To ensure smooth audio transition, use the Crossfade effect in Effect > Crossfader Tracks

### **Mixing (Narration with Background Music)**

- After recording a narration and cutting out errors,
- use the Compress tool in Effect > Compressor to make the louds part quieter

### **Exporting Media (Portable Sound File)**

Note: Exporting and Saving have different functionality

- File > Export Audio > Save as a WAV or MP3, if available

# Video Animation

## Introduction

In each lesson, students will learn the steps required to create a video animation. Students will continue expanding their topic by using the podcast as an external media when creating a video animation. By incorporating the two projects together, students will be able to visualize and piece together the developmental stages of directing a short clip.

In addition to podcast and video animation, students will be able to design their own animations from scratch. By the end of this lesson, students will have a verbal and visual media to describe their topic.

## Lessons

### Storyboarding

- 3.1 Lights, Camera, Action!
- 3.2 Compressing Events
- 3.3 Creating a Timeline
- 3.4 Timing Markers and Sequence

### iMovie

- 4.1 Starting a Project
- 4.2 Creating your first frame
- 4.3 Adding frames
- 4.4 Copying and Pasting layers
- 4.5 Transitions
- 4.6 Importing media (pictures and audio)
- 4.7 End Credits
- 4.8 Exporting

## Vocabulary

- **Storyboard:** a series of drawings or pictures that show the changes of scenes and actions for a movie, television show, etc.
- **Animation:** a way of making a movie by using a series of drawings, computer graphics, or photographs of objects (such as puppets or models) that are slightly different from one another and that when viewed quickly one after another create the appearance of movement
- **Genre:** a particular type or category of literature or art
- **Transition:** passage from one state, stage, subject, or place to another

## Storyboarding with Storytelling

Reading a book, listening to an audiobook, and watching the movie of a book all share the same story but each are very different. When reading a book, the reader must use their imagination to visualize what the author is saying. When listening to an audiobook, the tone and expression of the artist defines the mood and theme. When watching a movie, the visuals are rendered and the audience must understand and interpret significant events as the story builds up.

When storyboarding, each events must be carefully planned out so that the message is communicated properly to the audience. Begin by directing a story board on: <http://www.storyboardthat.com>. Storyboarding sets the foundation of frames and key events to include in the video.

## Additional Information and Resources

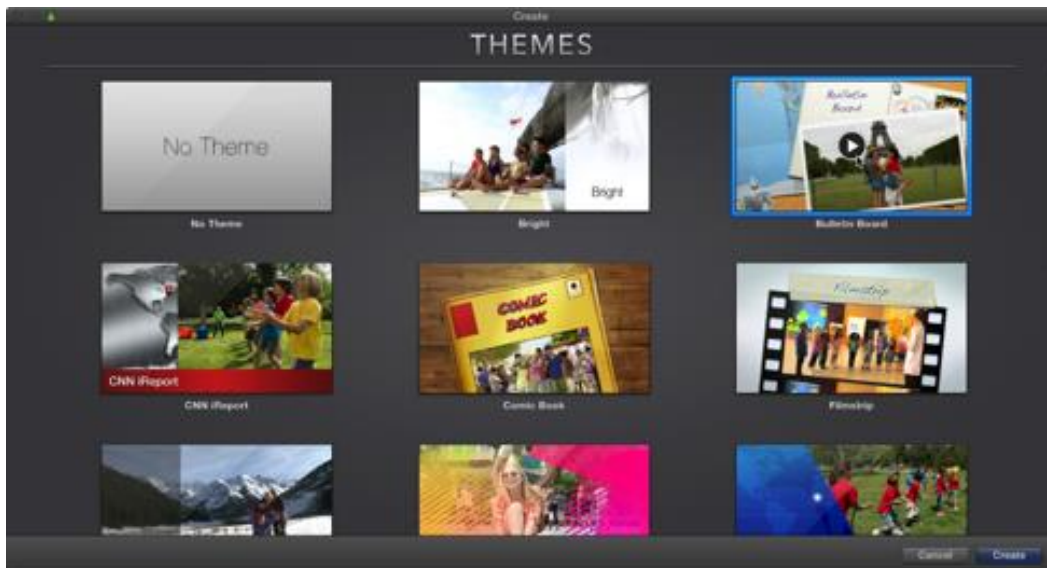
iMovie Guide (<https://help.apple.com/imovie/mac/10.1/>)

Photobooth Shortcuts (<http://www.brighthub.com/multimedia/photography/articles/84376.aspx>)

## Content

### Getting Started with iMovie

- Launch iMovie from Finder > Applications > iMovie
- Select a theme for the project (or select No Theme)
  - Note: Themes can be modified

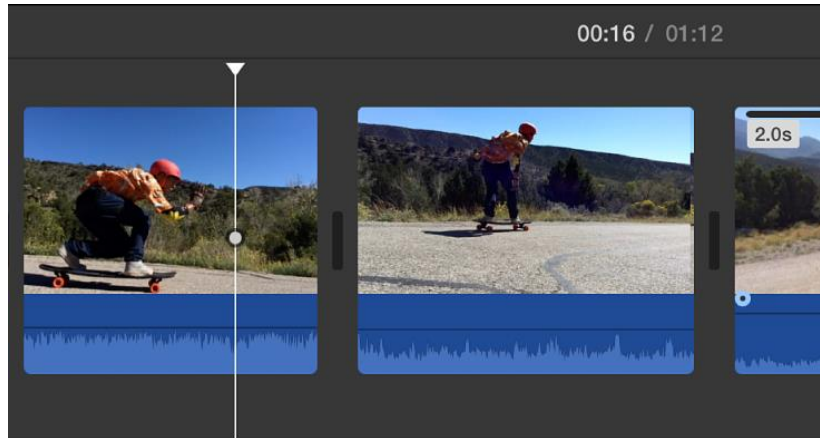


- Give the Project a Name
- Import media files by dragging relevant files into your workspace



## Freeze Frame

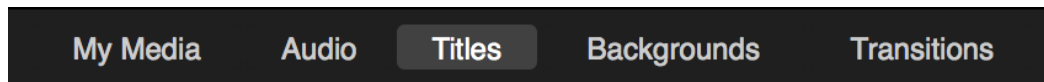
- Move the selector on top of where you can to freeze the frame of a video



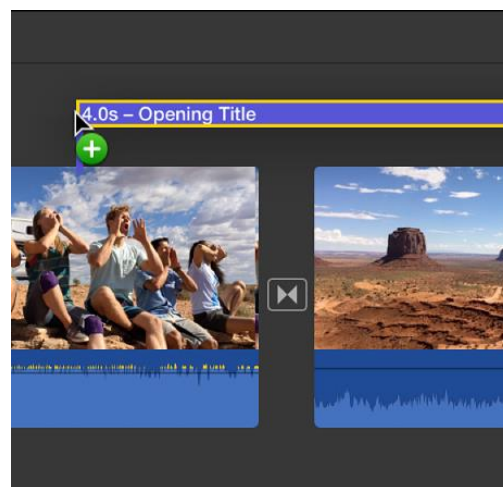
- Click of Modify > Add Freeze Frame
- Select the newly created freeze frame to edit duration and speed control settings

## Adding Text and Captions

- Select Title on the top toolbar



- Browse the Title library to pick a theme
- Drag the Title on top of a frame to add it to that frame



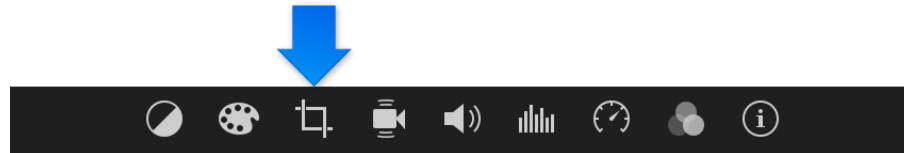
- Right-Click on the Title frame to modify any settings or text
- Note: Move Title box above an empty space to show text on a black background

## Importing Images

- Click on the Import button on the Toolbar
- Browse to Media or External Devices
- Add Folders or Drag Files individually

## Cropping a photo

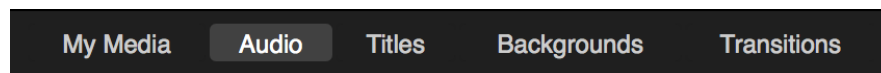
- Select the photo
- Click on the cropping tool



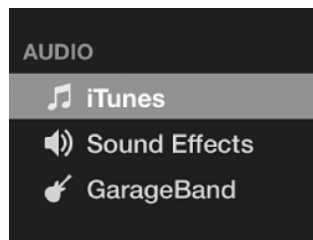
- Adjust the frame and Click on crop to resize the photo

## Importing Audio (Music, Podcast, Effects)

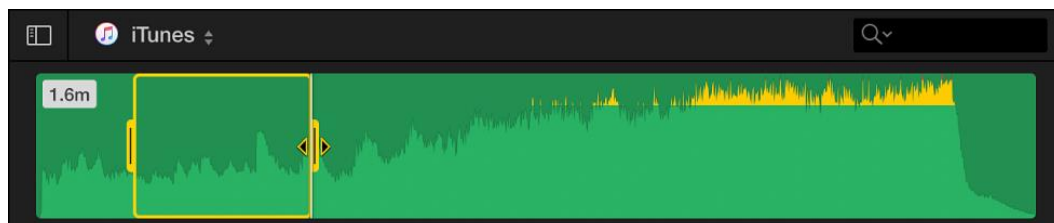
- Select Audio above the browser



- If importing from iTunes, Select iTunes,
- Otherwise, drag the media into your iMovie Library to import it



- Select the audio clip to begin trimming
- Using the Selector Tool, highlight the portion of audio you want to trim



- Do not forget to lower volume of the audio clip if it is used as a background music

Technical Troubleshooting

FAQ

Tips & Tricks