



# 4-H Filmmaking

## **Music, Stills, and Sound Effects**

Before you begin editing your film together, you might find that you want to add music, still images, or other sound effects to make your movie more interesting and exciting. There are a lot of places to find these sources but before you start grabbing images and sounds, there are a few important things you need to consider.

Believe it or not, you can't just use any old picture or sound effect you find for your movie. Most music, images, and sound effects are owned like possessions and you either have to pay for their use, or you have to find "free", "rights free", or "creative commons" sources. As you are just starting out and probably don't have a lot of money to burn, it is best to find free sources.

It's easy and there are a lot of places to look for material!

## **Where do I find music, still images, and other sound effects for my movies?**

Some Internet sites for accessing free sources are:

- 1) <http://www.incompetech.com/m/c/royalty-free>
- 2) <http://www.brainybetty.com/soundsforpowerpoint.htm>.
- 3) <http://www.freeplaymusic.com>
- 4) <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/browse.index.html>
- 5) <http://freeimages.com/index.php>
- 6) <http://www.terrapodcast.com>

**Note:** When using resources from the above sites or others, it is important to follow the guidelines and rules of use. Be sure to review the legal requirements and/or FAQs prior to downloading music, still clips, and sound effects.

If you don't find what you want just type in rights free music, or rights free sound effects, or rights free images in your web browser, and explore your possibilities. Another source of free material is through government websites. Since the tax payers pay for these sites they have access to all materials.

## **How do I get the sources into my editing program?**

### **Audio Files:**

Each editing program is slightly different and you may need to change the format for editing compatibility issues, but they all have similar setups.

- 1) Click on the download button to download the particular song, or effect that you want to use.
- 2) Put all of your downloads in a file you can easily find, like My Download Files.



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Windows Movie Maker supports a number of file formats: .wav, .aiff, .aif, .aifc, .wma, MP3, ASF, .snd, .au, .mpa, .mp2. If your file is not in that format you may need to convert it.

- 3) Open up iTunes
- 4) Open up the iTunes preferences
- 5) Select the "General" tab
- 6) Select the "Import Settings" button
- 7) Change the "Import Using" to your desired target file format (set options such as bit rate)
- 8) Click "ok"
- 9) Load the song into iTunes
- 10) Right click on the song and select "Convert selection to..."
- 11) Repeat steps 9 and 10 for all files you want to convert

Once all your files are in the proper format you can bring them into Windows Movie Maker (or the editing software you are using).

- 12) Import the song either by choosing File>Import Into Collections or by dragging and dropping the file into the collections.

### **Still Images:**

Windows Movie Maker supports the formats .bmp, .jpg, .jpeg, .jpe, .jfif, .gif

- 1) Download your free images with these format extensions; (i.e.) tulip.jpg.
- 2) Put all of your downloads in a file you can easily find, like My Download Files.
- 3) Import the images by choosing File>Import Into Collections or by dragging and dropping the file into the collections.

At first it may seem confusing to get all of your free sources into the proper formats, but you can do it. With a little added time your films will look and feel more professional, and your editing will flow together smoothly.