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Introduction to Audacity

Audacity

Audacity is a free, easy-to-use, multi-track audio editor and one of the more popular free audio editors used for creating podcasts. It can be used with Windows, Mac, Linux, and most other operating systems.

Audacity 101

- Click on the red button to record your track!
- To edit out sections of your recording, just select the part of your track you want to remove, then hit "delete" on your keyboard.
- You can split tracks by selecting the point in the clip you wish to divide, then go to Edit > Clip Boundaries > Split.
- You can move tracks by dragging and dropping them with your mouse.
- Save your project by going to File > Save Project > Save Project (or Save Project As, if you are just creating your podcast project).
- Finished? Export your project before sharing your recording! Go to File > Export > Export as an MP3.

Helpful Videos and Sources:

Audacity for Beginners: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJhIlsLH32I
Audacity for Podcasting: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xl-WDjWrTtk

Key Terms

- **Track**: a single audio channel or stream.
- **Multi-track:** an audio recording or channel with more than one track or recording of sound. Another term for this is "multimedia."
- **Clipping**: splitting audio into separate sections or making "clips."
- **Waveform**: the curve within a track showing the volume and duration of individual sounds.
- **Mixing:** the process of audio production, or mixing tracks of recordings, music, and other desired media.
- **MP3 File:** the most general audio file format. Others include .wav, .mp4, etc.

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Tips for Getting Started on Your Podcasts
- Develop a detailed script first and indicate when specific types of audio and media should be included.
- Read the script out loud to practice so the recording sounds natural. You want it to sound like a dialogue, rather than you reading off a script.

Tips for Audio Recording
- Start recording well in **advance** and do several **takes**
  - The original recorded audio is often much longer than the actual podcast episode.
  - Do not record everything at once! Break your script into segments that you can record several takes individually.
  - **Editing often takes much longer than the actual recording!**
- Find a quiet space to do any audio recording
- Use headphones or microphones to capture your audio
- Reserve space at the Digital Media Commons in Snell Library for professional studios and equipment!

Fair Use, Copyright, and Public Domain Resources
Here are some resources for finding creative commons and public domain media. Don't forget to provide credit!
- Free Music Archive: https//freemusicarchive.org/
- BBC Sound Effects: https//sound-effects.bbcrewind.co.uk
- Internet Archive Audio library: https://archive.org/details/audio
- Partners in Rhyme: https://www.partnersinrhyme.com/pir/PIRsfx.shtml
- The Public Domain Review: https://publicdomainreview.org/collections/
- Musopen: https//musopen.org/
- CC Mixter: http://ccmixter.org/
- Creative Commons Search: https://search.creativecommons.org/
- Free sound effects : https://freesound.org/browse/

For more information:
- Copyright and Primary Sources: http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/copyright.html
- Fair use guidelines: https://www.lib.purdue.edu/uco/CopyrightBasics/fair_use.html
- Fair Use Handout: https://github.com/NULabNortheastern/digitalassignmentshowcase/blob/master/

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