Make Minecraft videos with Adobe Premiere Pro CC

A training guide

Contents

Welcome to Premiere Pro

This guide is for YOU, young video maker. This guide will teach you the ins and outs of Adobe Premiere Pro, the industry standard of all those YouTube celebs and Minecraft gamers. You will learn how to use Adobe Premiere Pro, from creating a new project to making your final product YouTube ready.
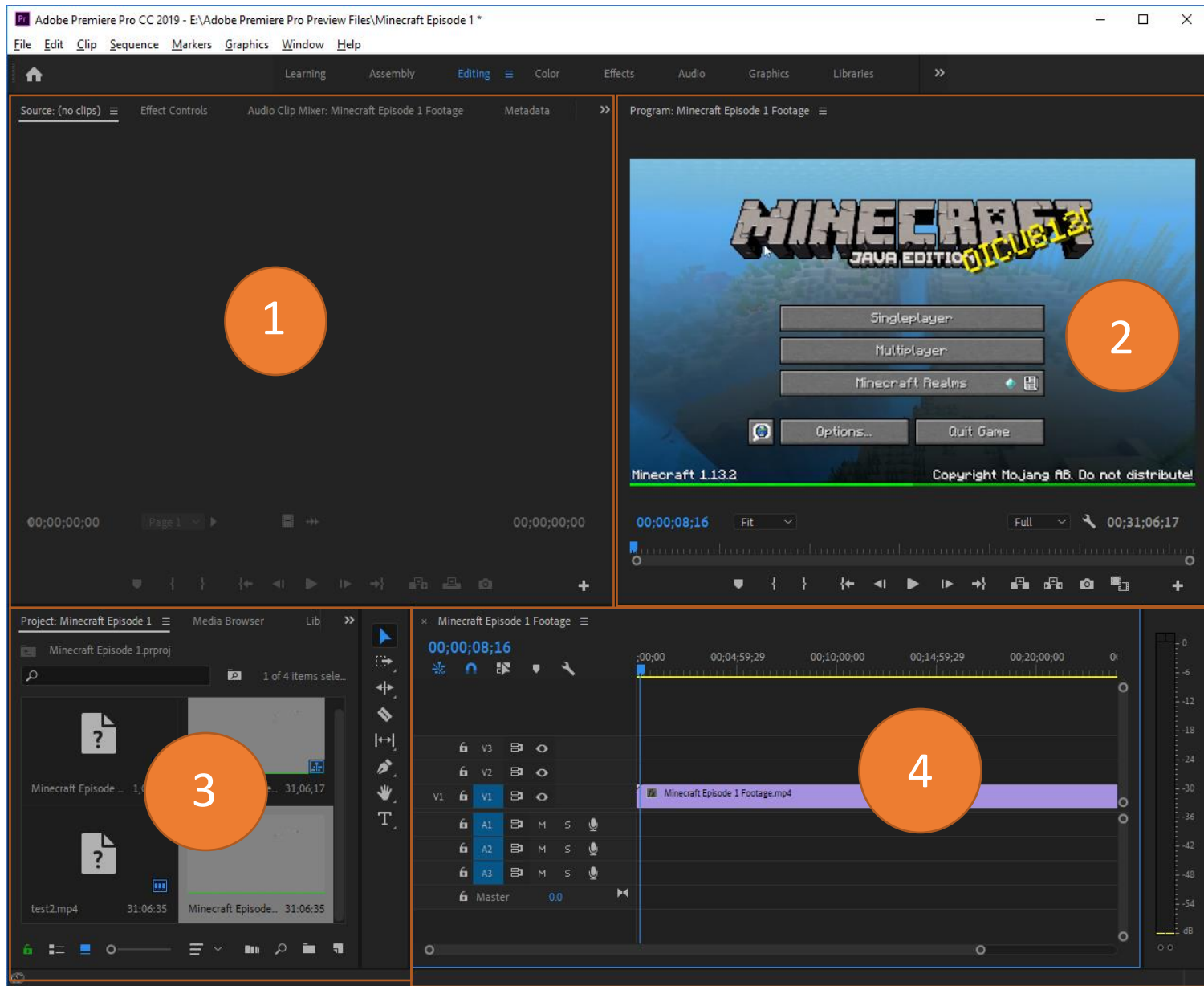
Create a new project

The first step to making any video is to collect the footage you need. However, because you are learning to edit and not capture footage, in this case the first step means creating a Premiere Pro project file.

1. Open Adobe Premiere Pro CC.
2. On the Home window, select **New project…**
   TIP: Your previous projects will be shown at the bottom of the window for quick access.
3. Name your project **Minecraft Episode 1**.
4. Make sure that **Timecode** is selected under Video.
   Note: There are lots of options for where you save your project files and more, but for now the defaults are fine.
5. Select **OK**.

Premiere Pro overview

Adobe Premiere Pro has a lot of stuff going on when you first open it. This overview, and the section that follows it, are going to help you make sense of this downright spooky interface.

Number	Name	Description
1	Effect controls	This is where you can add keyframes and adjust effects like video position and scale.
2	Video preview	This is where you will be able to view the video as you make changes.

3	Project window	This is where the stuff you import goes, and where you can add video effects such as transitions.
4	Timeline	This is the main working area. You will move footage around in this area and all effects will be visible here.

Premiere Pro tool guide

This section tells you about the basic tools and their functions. Some tools (the ones with the little arrow below them) offer alternatives, but for now these are all you need to know. The letters in parentheses are the keyboard shortcuts of the tools, in case you want to speed up your editing.

	Selection Tool (V): You can use this tool to select, drag, and move footage around in the timeline.
	Track Select Forward Tool (A): Selecting footage with this tool selects all footage forward in the timeline. You can press **Shift** to still only select one piece of footage at a time.
	Ripple Edit Tool (B): You can use this tool to edit the length of a piece of footage by dragging from one of the ends and automatically shifting other footage to meet it (close the gap).
	Razor Tool (C): This tool will likely be your most used tool. You can use this tool to make a cut in footage to remove it from your timeline.
	Slip Tool (Y): This is probably the most complicated tool to use. You can use this tool to "scoot" footage forward or backward, so that footage that began at the end of a clip begins closer to the start.
	Pen Tool (P): You can use this tool to add keyframes to a piece of footage.
	Hand Tool (H): You can use this tool to move along the timeline without adjusting the footage.
	Text Type (T): You can use this tool to add text titles directly to your footage.

Scrubbing tool: The blue marker in the **Timeline** with the vertical blue line. This marker indicates the current time you are located at within the footage. You can drag this marker back and forth along the timeline to change the position/time you want to work with.

Five tips to make making videos easy

Editing videos can be tough. These 5 tips will help you edit quickly so that you can get to making as many videos as possible! (It's every day, bro.)

1. Save often

It may seem like a no-brainer, but the amount of times I've forgotten to save and lost all my work is embarrassing. Every edit you make is another chance for Premiere Pro to do something silly and crash. So, save as much as you can, and more than that.

2. Cut footage more than you think

It's hard to take out a joke you think is funny or take out parts you think are necessary to tell your story. But sometimes, it's better to just cut stuff out. This is where I'd show it to a friend or family member and see what they think.

3. Use transitions sparingly

The transitions may seem really cool to you, and there are a couple great ones (**Cross dissolve** comes to mind). But often, these are used best at the very beginning or the very end of a video, or at "breaks" (places you say you're going to do something off-screen and cut back to the video), rather than throughout the video.

4. Use keyframes often

Keyframes are an excellent way to increase the number of effects you can have in your footage. Each keyframe is sort of an "anchor" for your footage. Between keyframes you can modify footage position, scale, rotation, etc. to get some wacky-looking and fun edits. Each option (Position, Scale, etc.) has its own keyframes, so combining multiple effects can be really exciting!

5. Have fun

This again seems like a no-brainer, but if you're not having fun then don't edit anymore. It's alright to take a break when the software is being annoying, or you aren't seeing your vision come to fruition. Come back again after taking a break, and have fun making the kinds of videos you would want to watch.

Import source files and add them to a sequence

The next step to successfully creating a video in Adobe Premiere Pro is to get the source footage imported into the project and added to a sequence. The files you need will be provided for this project, but normally you'll import whatever footage you'll be editing using the following steps:

1. Select **File > Import…**
2. Navigate to **Desktop** and select **Minecraft Episode 1 Footage**.
   Tip: You can hold **Ctrl** to select more than one file to be imported.
3. Select **Open** to add the footage to your project.
   Note: Give Premiere Pro a moment to process the footage you're adding, which might take a while depending on the size of the files.
4. In the Project window, select and drag the source footage into the **Timeline** below the preview.

5. Make sure that the footage is dragged all the way to the left, so that the first frame previews the footage.
6. Select the footage and right-click.
7. Select **Set to frame size**.
   This will make the footage look correctly sized.

Cut source video

Often, there will be parts of your footage that need to be removed. This could be due to the stuff you recorded not being necessary for your message, your capturing software not working correctly, or any other number of reasons. Long story short, you will want to cut out parts of the footage and delete them. To do that, follow these steps:

1. Scrub to **00;13;15;00**.
   Note: Scrub means to move the
2. Select the **Razor tool**.
   Tip: You can press **C** to quickly switch to the razor tool.
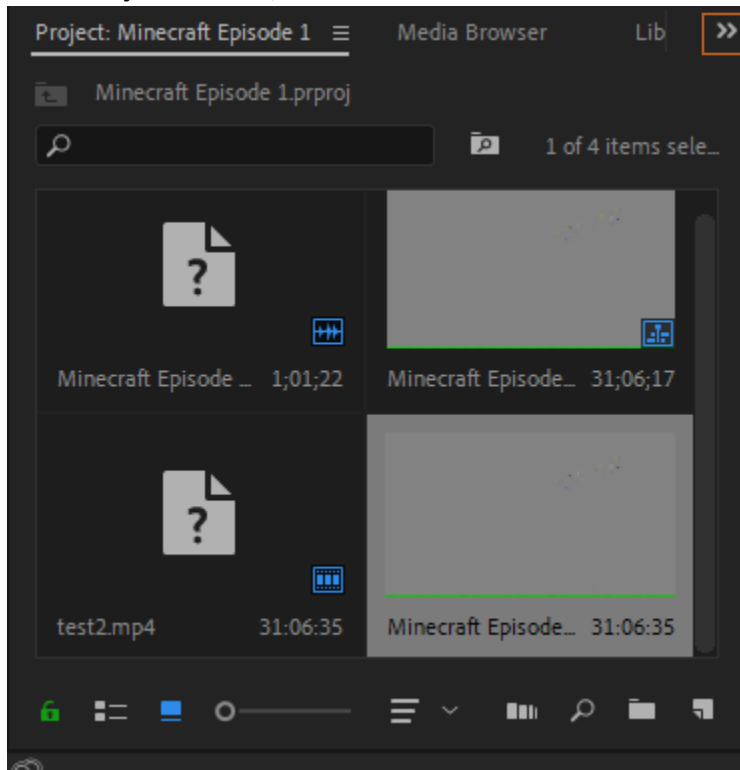

3. Move your cursor towards the scrubbing arrow until it locks on.
4. Select the footage at the scrubbing tool.
   Note: This will break the footage into two parts.
5. Scrub to **00;21;45;00**.
   Tip: You can go to **00;21;45;00** quickly by selecting the blue timer below the video preview, entering **21;45;00** and pressing **Enter**.
6. Select the footage at the scrubbing tool.
   Now you have the part of the video you want removed "cut" from the ends of the parts you want to keep.
7. Select the **Selection tool**.
   Tip: Press **V** to quickly switch to the selection tool.
8. Highlight the footage you have cut.
   This will be the footage in between the two places you made selects with the Razor tool.
9. Press **Delete**.
10. Drag the right footage left until it lines up with the left footage.

Apply a transition

Now you want to make two different pieces of footage look like they belong together. This is where a transition will be useful. Transitions allow you to seamlessly combine two pieces of footage into one continuous flow. Premiere Pro allows you to have many kinds of transitions, ranging from black or white to 3D motions. For this project, you will be adding a **Black screen** transition to your footage by following these steps:

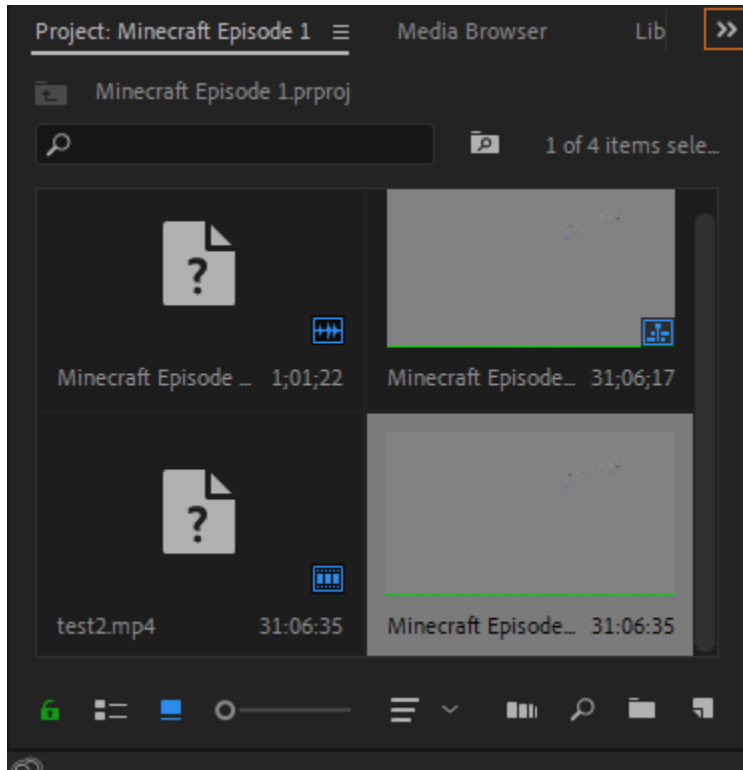1. In the **Project** window, select the double arrows.

2. Select **Effects**.
3. Select the arrow next to **Video transitions**.
   There are lots of cool transitions here that will spice up your editing that you can experiment with on your own.
4. Select the arrow next to **Dissolve**.
5. Select **Dip to black**.
6. Drag your selection in between the two pieces of footage.
   Let go to apply the change; you can even view your change by playing the footage and watching the video preview by pressing **Enter**.

Make footage black & white (apply a filter)

Sometimes you'll see people make the video look different, maybe by changing the color of the video. In this exercise, you will be making one part of the video look black and white. This might be useful if you're doing a flashback or a sad sequence. To make a piece of footage appear black and white:
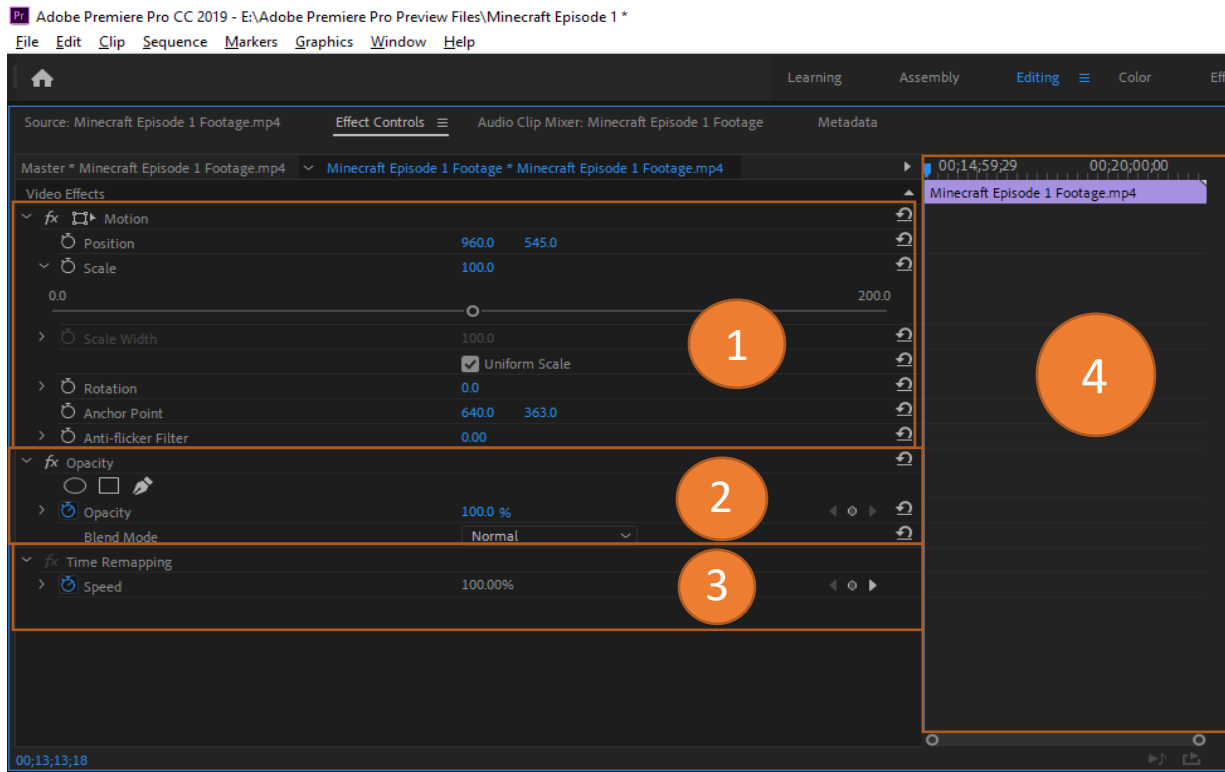
1. In the **Project** window, select the double arrows.

2. Select **Effects**.
3. Select the arrow next to **Video effects**.
4. Select the arrow next to **Image control**.
5. Select **Black & white.**
6. Drag **Black & white** to the rightmost piece of footage.
7. Let go to apply the effect to the footage.

Effect controls overview

The next few sections will be using the Effect Controls window, so here is a quick rundown of the options in this window.
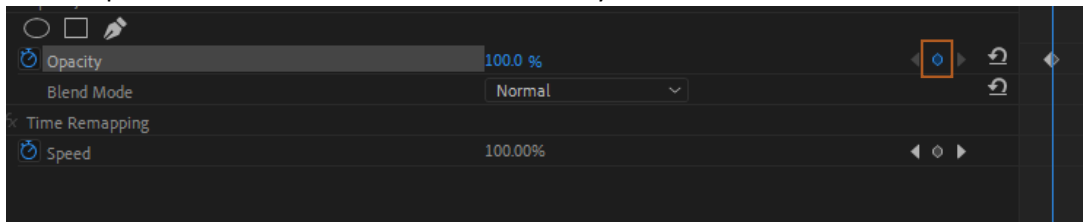

Number	Name	Description
1	Motion controls	You can use this section of the window to move the footage around, change its size and rotation, and other positional options.
2	Opacity controls	You can use the tools in this part of the window to change how visible footage is. One way for this is to change how "see-through" footage is. You can also add masks here, which reduce the amount of visible

		footage by making a shape of footage that you can see.
3	Time remapping controls	You can use this section of the window to change the speed of the footage: speed it up or slow it down.
4	Keyframe window	This window shows you the keyframes you have made and the amount of time between them.

Add a keyframe

Keyframes are the coolest part about Premiere Pro. Keyframes allow you to make "endpoints" for cool visual effects, such as slowly moving footage across the screen or making the footage larger over time. In this exercise, you will learn how to add just one keyframe to your project.

1. Select the left-most piece of footage.
   Make sure it is highlighted.
2. Scrub to **00;01;20;00**.
3. In the **Effect Controls** window, select **Effect Controls**.
4. Select the stopwatch to the left of **Opacity** if it is not blue.
   Tip: If you can't see the stopwatch, make sure the arrow to the left of **fx Opacity** is facing down by selecting it.
5. Select the diamond towards the right side of the **Opacity controls**.
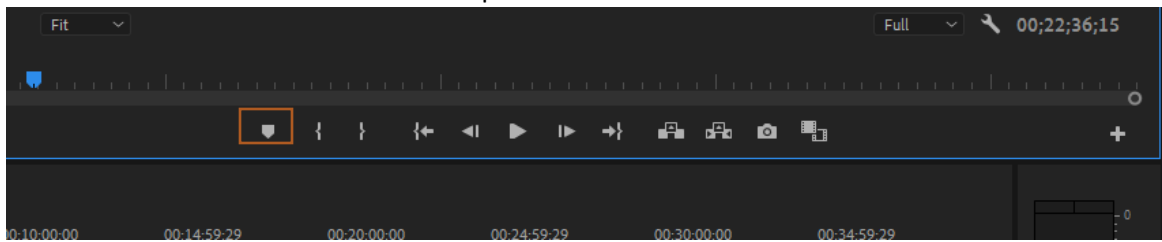   Each stopwatch has its own diamond to create keyframes with.

Add and manage markers

Sometimes, you'll want to remember a certain time in the footage to come back to later. Adding a marker will allow you to quickly mark the location in the footage you wish to return to and give it its own color so that you can remember what you marked it for. In this exercise, you will mark the keyframe you made in the previous exercise.
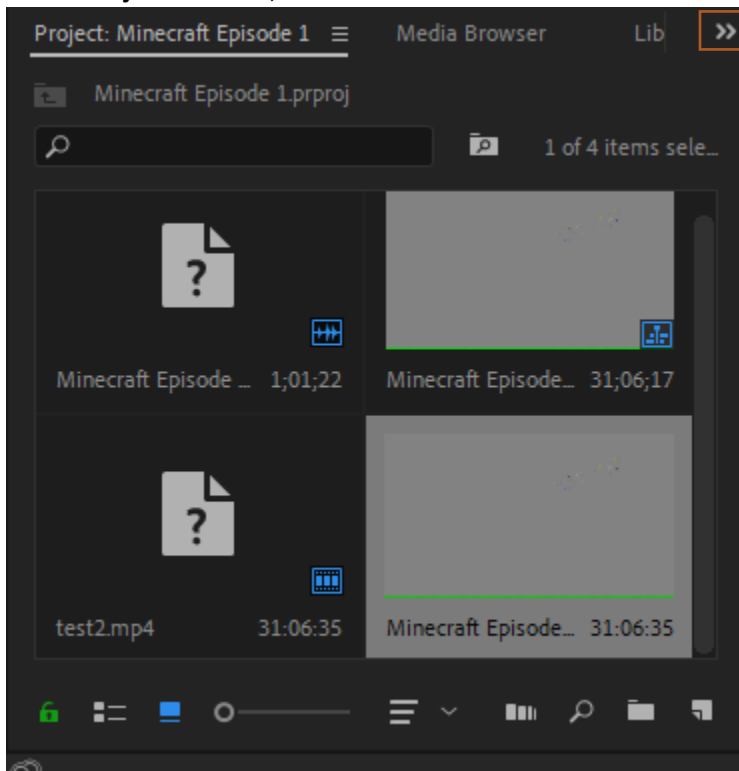
1. Scrub to **00;01;20;00** if you are not already there.
   You should not have to move the scrubbing tool if you did the previous exercise.

2. Select the **Marker tool** below the video preview.

Tip: You can press **M** to quickly add a marker to the current location of the scrubbing tool.

A marker should appear above the blue scrubbing tool.

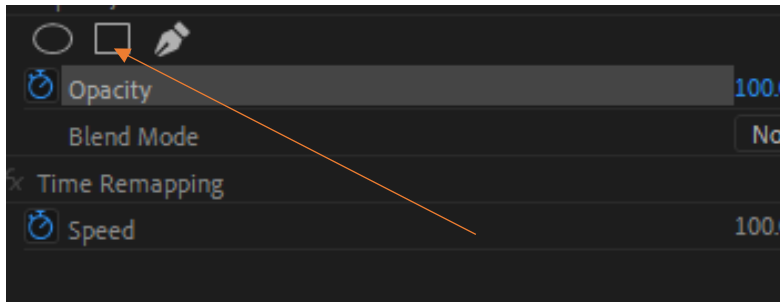3. In the **Project** window, select the double arrows.

4. Select **Markers**.

Your markers will appear here and can be filtered by selecting one or multiple colors.

5. Select the grey space next to **Name:**

Tip: You can double-click on **Name:** to edit the marker name in the window that pops up. This window gives more information about the marker.

6. Name your marker **Cool Marker.**

7. Press **Enter** to confirm the new name.

Add a mask

Masks allow you to focus in on one part of the screen by reducing the amount of footage that is seen. These allow you to create some visually cool effects, such as only showing part of one piece of footage

over another piece of footage. In this exercise, you will add a rectangle mask to your project, to stay in style with the squareness of Minecraft.

1. Select the left-most piece of footage.
2. Scrub to **00;01;20;00** if you are not there already.
   You should still be at this timestamp.
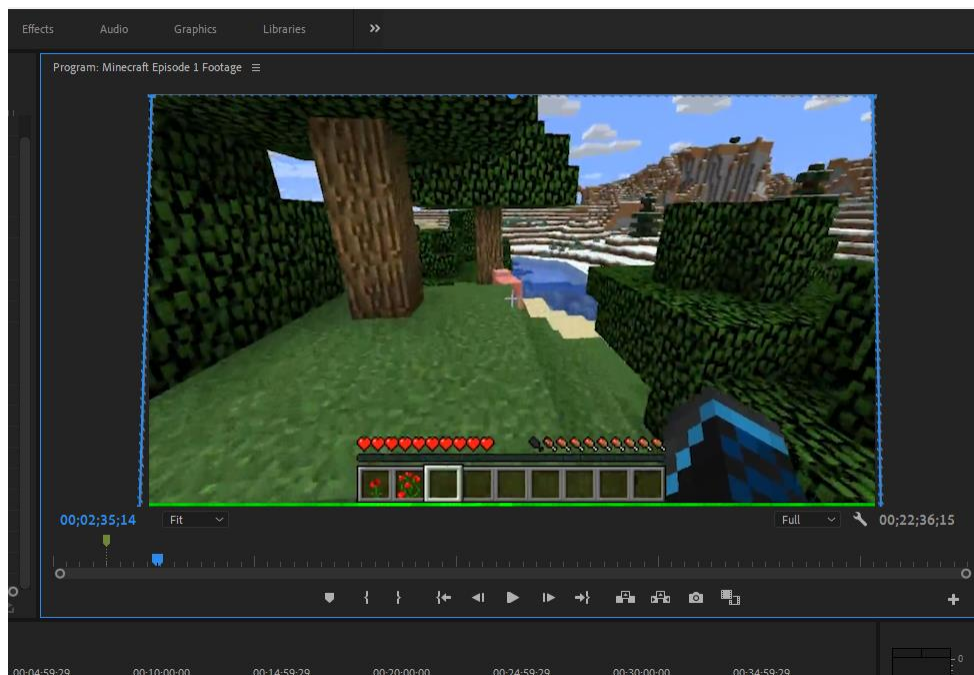3. In the **Effect controls** window, select the rectangle below **fx Opacity**.

4. Select the stopwatch next to **Mask path**.
5. Make sure the stopwatches next to **Mask feather, Mask opacity, and Mask expansion** are gray.

Add effects between keyframes

Now, we finally get to make some visually cool effects with the keyframes and masks you learned about in previous parts. In this exercise, you will be slowly growing the size of the mask to fill up the whole screen. You can use keyframes to do all sorts of effects, so play around with these a lot to see what you can do!

1. To the right of Opacity, select 100.0 % and enter 0.
2. Scrub to **00;02;35;14**.
3. Make a new keyframe by selecting the diamond to the right of **Mask path**.
   You should see two diamonds in the **Keyframe window**, one with the left side filled white and the other with the right side filled with white.
4. Add another keyframe by selecting the diamond to the right of **Opacity**.
5. Select **Mask path**.
6. Drag the edges of the mask to the edge of the video preview.
   This will make it look like the whole screen is visible in the preview.

Play the footage back by pressing **Enter**. The screen should be black for about two minutes before the footage appears and slightly grows over time, also becoming more visible (growing in opacity).

Add a new video track (add a text title to your project)
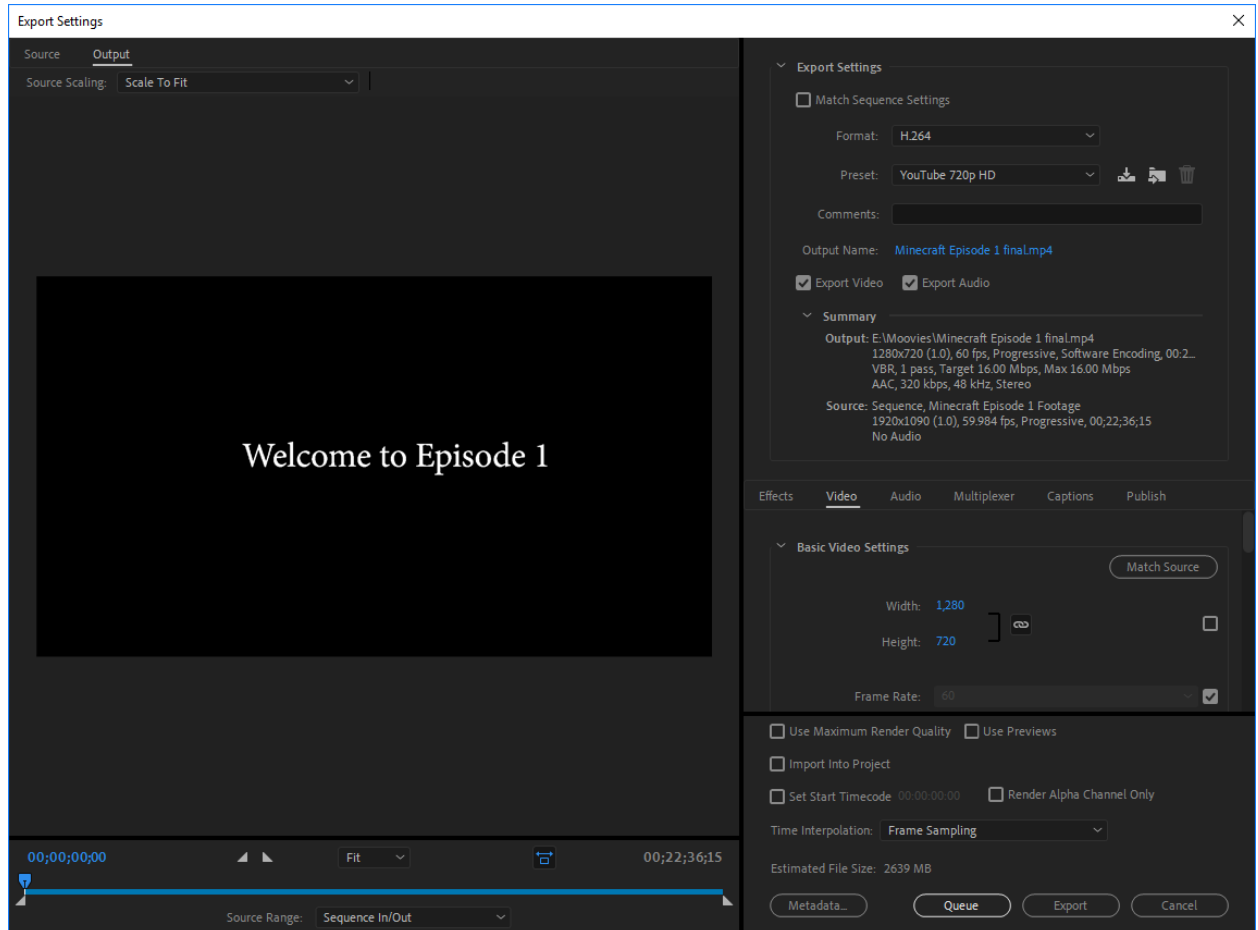
So, you may have noticed that the footage you placed into the Timeline only takes up one row, or a small part of the overall section. You can use other rows to put more layers of footage on your project. This is one way you can see the same person multiple times in the same footage like in some music videos on YouTube. In this exercise, you will be adding a Text Title to your project to give you a basic idea of how using multiple layers of video can help push your editing to the next level!

1. Select the row above your footage (V2).
2. Scrub to **00;00;00;00**.
3. At the top of the screen, select **Graphics > New layer > Text**.
   Tip: You can press **T** and draw the text box on the video preview to create a new text layer.
4. Select **Clip > Speed/Duration…**
5. Select **Duration:**
6. Enter **1;20;00** and press **Enter**.
7. Double-click on the text **New text layer**.
8. Enter **Welcome to Episode 1** into the box and press **Enter**.
9. In the **Effect controls window**, select the left number in the **Position** row.
   Tip: The left number is the left & right (X) position of the element, and the right number is the top & bottom (Y) position of the element.
10. Enter **580.0** into this field and press **Enter**.

Export your project

Now, you're ready to export your project and upload it to Youtube. There are lots of video formats you can export to, but this exercise will show you how to export your project as a 720p MP4 video, which is common for uploading to Youtube. Export your project by following these steps:

1. Select the **Timeline** by clicking anywhere within the panel.
    The outline of this panel should become blue.
2. Select **File > Export > Media...**
3. Scrub to **00;00;00;00**.

4. In **Format**: select **H.264** from the list of options.
5. In **Preset**: select **YouTube 720p HD** from the list of options.
6. Select the blue text in **Output name**:
7. Name the file **Minecraft Episode 1 final**.
8. Select **Export**.
    Note: This will be the longest part of the process, as you must wait for Premiere Pro to finish this.

    Congratulations! Your project is ready to upload to YouTube.