

## Using Quicktime Pro to Make Digital Stories

### Overview

There are many ways to help students create digital stories. The major advantage of using QuickTime Pro is that the final format is more compatible with a variety of Web browsers (Netscape, Internet Explorer, Safari, etc.)

Software you'll need for this project:

- **QuickTime Pro** (available in E-255)
- **PowerPoint** (to sequence and format the images)
- **Sound Recorder** (comes free as an Accessory with Windows 2000 and XP)
- **Headset with Microphone** (borrowable from the Center for Teaching and Learning), or contact Media Services for more sophisticated equipment
- If you want to do more sophisticated sound editing, **SoundForge** is available on 4 machines in E-255.

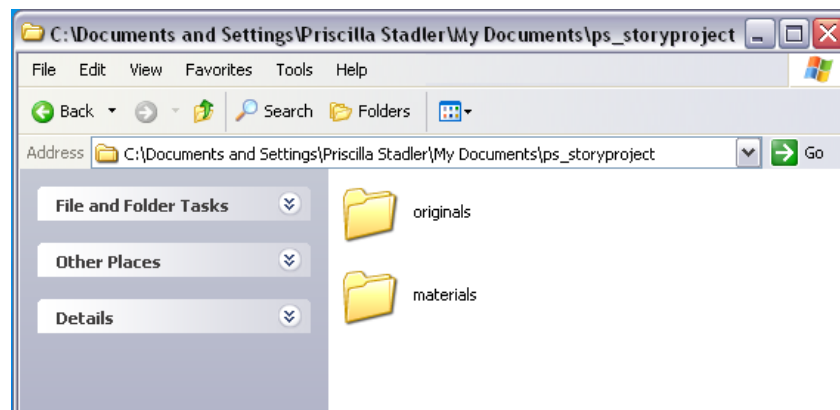
NOTE: if your operating system is Windows XP, you can use MovieMaker instead of Quicktime.

Some digital story-tellers prefer to create their story image by image, adding their narration to each image and piecing them together. Others would rather do the narrative as a longer sound file that accompanies the entire series of images.

This handout gives instructions for the second method, meaning that each story will consist of a series of images (jpgs) and one audio file (wav). We'll use Quicktime to put the audio and the visuals together.

### Getting Ready - folders, pictures and sounds

Before completing the steps below, it's helpful to get organized. Make a new folder in your documents folder and name it with your initials (if you are working in a computer lab) and the project name, such as: **ps\_storyproject**. Within this folder make two other folders, one named **originals** and one named **materials**.



PowerPoint is very helpful for preparing a series of easy, manageable JPGs to use for your story. JPG (pronounced jay-peg) is a widely used file format for digital images. Using PowerPoint also gives students a sense of the sequential flow of their story.

Once the images and/or text for the digital story are compiled as a series of PowerPoint slides, PLEASE save an “original” version in case you need to come back to it later. Save the PowerPoint in your **originals** folder.

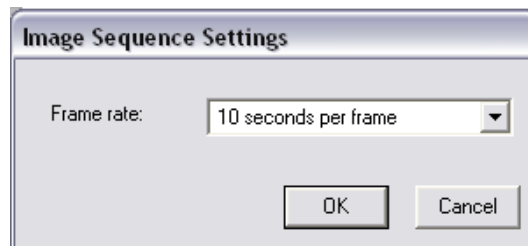
To make the PowerPoint slides into a series of JPGS, go to **File > Save As**. Make sure you are saving into your **materials** folder by looking at **Save In** at the top of the window. Under **Save as Type** select **JPEG file** and click **Save**.

Select **Every Slide** when you are asked whether you want all or just one of the slides as JPGs. PowerPoint creates a folder with your presentation’s name followed by the .jpg extension. The folder contains each of your slides as a separate jpg file. Notice that PowerPoint has named all the files (each individual slide) as Slide1.jpg, Slide2.jpg, Slide3.jpg, etc. Don’t rename the files!.

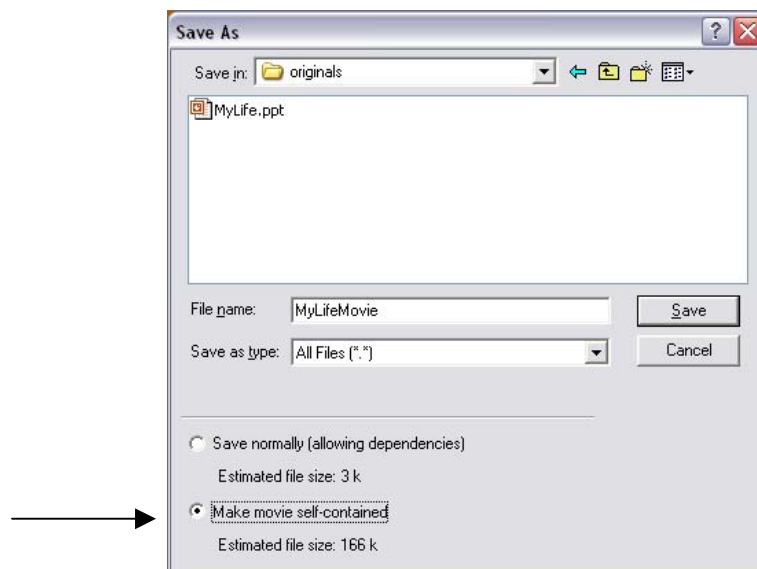
### Make a “Silent Movie”

One way to create the sound file is to make the images into a silent movie first, and record your narration while seeing the images.

1. Open **QuickTime**.
2. In the **File** menu, click on **Open Image Sequence**.
3. Select the first JPG and click the **Open** button:
4. When you are asked to choose the image frame rate, scroll to the bottom of the pulldown menu and select 10 seconds per frame:



5. Save the file in your **originals** folder. Be sure to select **Make movie self-contained**.

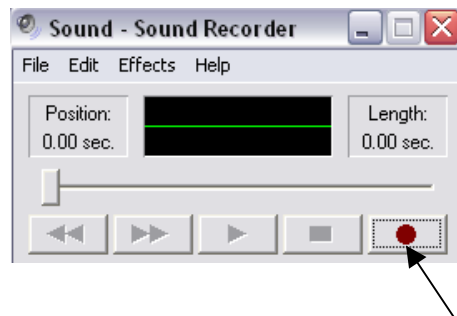


## Setting up for Sound

The easiest way to create a voiceover soundtrack is to use Sound Recorder and a headset microphone. The advantages of Sound Recorder are that it is free and very easy to use.

However, you should know that Sound Recorder's audio file quality is inferior to most other recording software.

1. To record, the microphone headset must be plugged in to the microphone jack. You can also plug in the headset and/or speakers. Be sure to match colors and/or symbols.
2. To record your narration, go to **Programs>Accessories>Entertainment>Sound Recorder**.



Now you can record the narration while looking at the images of your story. You'll need to have two windows open – the movie file you made in Quicktime and the Sound Recorder window.

3. Press play in your Quicktime movie, then in Sound Recorder click on the red circle and speak to record. Remember to hit the pause button (the black square) after each segment you narrate.

*VERY IMPORTANT: it's essential to use the pause button between the narration for each slide. If you don't press the pause button you'll be cut off after 60 seconds.*

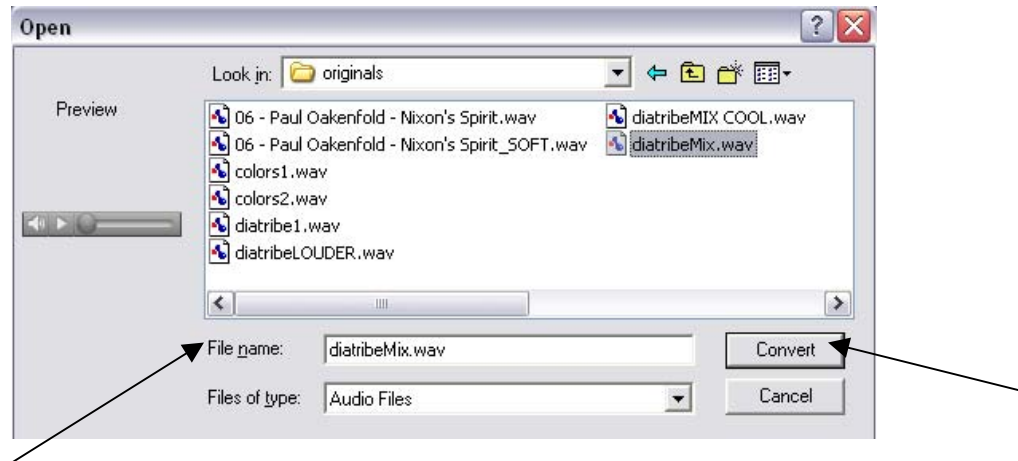
4. Save the sound file in your **originals** folder.
5. Test the sound and movie together by playing both at the same time to make sure they coordinate. This is a good point to backtrack and re-do anything that needs changes.

## Combining Audio and Visuals

The final step is to paste your visuals into your sounds movie file. Quicktime needs to convert both visuals and sound into the .mov format to integrate them. You've already created the visuals .mov. Now it's time to convert your audio to an .mov Quicktime file.

1. In Quicktime, go to **File>Open Movie in New Player**. Change the file type at the bottom to **audio files**. Then browse to your sound file.

2. Select your audio file and click **Convert**.



3. You'll see a Quicktime window with your audio \*.mov file. Make sure your visuals \*.mov (see Silent Movie section) is open.

This is the audio \*.mov Quicktime window!



4. You'll now copy your visuals and paste them into your audio file.
  - A. In your visuals \*.mov window go to **Edit >Select All**. Then **Copy**.
  - B. In your audio \*.mov window, click on **Edit > Add Scaled**.
  - C. Save this file in the **materials** folder.

Now play your digital story!!!!