

Photo Slideshow Tips

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Slideshows can combine audio (e.g., narration, natural sound, interview), photographs, and photograph captions. When creating a slideshow, think about your audience. The biggest mistake students make is providing too much information. Here are some basic tips:

Images

- Seek detail (faces, close-ups). Avoid the backs of people's heads.
- Include sequences (e.g., medium and close-up shot of the same object edited together).
- Shoot multiple photos of the same object.
- Avoid redundancy – do not use the same shot twice. Think about shooting different angles to change up shots.

Recording Audio

- Okay to re-ask question when sound bite is running too long or there is an overpowering sound in the background.
- Do not talk during interview or while recording natural sound.
- Do not let subject hold mic.
- Maintain the same distance with mic.
- For interviews, put mic under shirt if it is windy.
- Record interview on location, rather than taking the person from natural environment.
- Scan for natural sound to match your photographs (e.g., birds, trees)

Captions/Cutlines (Information related to a photograph)

- Include information not revealed in the photograph. Instead of writing “Sara is holding the teddy bear,” use “Her brother gave Sara the bear following her accident.” This requires taking photographs *and* asking questions to add detail to those photographs. Also, your narration should not repeat what is apparent in the photo.
- Make it to easy read
 - Always increase point size
 - If the text is too long, use same text on the following photograph(s) so people have enough time to read the captions.
- Use complete sentences.

Editing

- When editing, cut out “um” and “errr.”
- Photos in slideshows can be held a little longer than video. Video shots are usually 3-6 seconds in length. Hold shots longer when there are captions because people have to process the visual, aural, and caption information.
- If you use the program Soundslides, you cannot edit your audio in that program. You must use another program such as Audacity, GarageBand, or Soundtrack Pro.