

Some Common WeVideo Moves: An Exercise

In this exercise, we will learn some of the most helpful tips and tricks in WeVideo through a task to make a digital-story-style video using a spoken version of James Wright’s poem, “A Blessing.”

This page of digital storytelling handouts—<http://lisadush.com/dst-handouts>—has some useful links and instructions to help you complete the exercise.

1. Start a new project: name it Test-Project-1. Make it a “Collaborative” project, and share it with Lisa and Jane.
 - Project > + > Create new project > Collaborative
2. Create a new video within that project, named Blessing-v1, and upload the audio and photos that I emailed you into this project.
3. Listen to the audio, look at the script and images.
4. Add a few markers to the audio—one at the first mention of ponies, one at the mention of nuzzling a hand, one at “delicate as a girl’s wrist”—to facilitate navigating through the voiceover.
 - Navigate to place in the audio > With the audio highlighted, click M on your keyboard > Click the marker to open it > Click the pencil icon to edit its title and link it to the voiceover file.
5. Cut lines 11 & 12 of the poem out of the voiceover, close the gap, and build a video with your raw materials.
 - Zoom in to make audio edits and other tight edits.
6. Use a Creative Commons Flickr search to download two additional fair-use images for gaps in the audio. As you do this, add the citation info or links to the Media-links file. Upload these images to the project.
7. Find a song on dig CC Mixer that adds to or emphasizes the voiceover. Add the citation info to your Media-links file, download this song to your computer, then upload it to your project. Create a new audio track and add the music to your timeline. Adjust the start and end points and the volume.
8. Share all of your photos and audio files with the project.
 - Shift- or CTRL-click to select all media in the story > right-click > Share to Project: VERY IMPORTANT TO DO THIS!

9. Make a title slide, and insert it to the left of your existing media. Fade it up from black.
 - Select all media and push it about 3 seconds to the right > Make slide and drag it to Video 2 track > Trim and slide into main track > Enable “Show levels” in Video 1 track > Insert 2 keyframes and adjust.
10. Add transitions between your images. Lengthen or shorten at least one of the transitions.
11. Add several pan-and-zooms.
 - Double-click photo in timeline, click Animation tab, set start and end points.
12. Save the project.
 - Note that a ‘hard save’ is different than an autosave. Hard save creates a recoverable version of the project. Use it at significant editing points.
13. Delete everything in the timeline, one media item at a time, and save the project. Then get all of your media back, quickly.
 - With a small project like this, can use the undo button. But for bigger projects, use the Revisions option.
14. Make a copy of the project, named Blessing-v2.
15. Make a credits slide or slides that cite the photos and the music.
 - Use same method as with a title slide. Note that you can look at the photo’s metadata and find the link to photos you have forgotten to keep a link record for (on Mac, CMD-I and on PC, ALT-ENTER).
16. Export and download your video.
 - Export at 1080 HD resolution.