

AUDIO

Public Announcement

Teaching Points

Overview

Radio broadcasts of public service announcements, news items, product advertisements, and program or event announcements are types of audio communications. Copyright laws impact many areas when reproducing information, i.e., audio, video, text, and art. This assignment allows students to research copyright laws and create an audio file to be used as a radio announcement that informs the audience (students and teachers) of copyright laws that impact copying/reproducing various forms of information. In addition, good audio skills are used in video and electronic presentations.

Content Review

Review and/or demonstrate the following as needed:

1. Ripping an audio file from a CD
2. Converting an audio file from one file type to another file type
3. Recording audio/voice files with a microphone
4. Combining audio files and adjusting the track levels (including fade effects)
5. Obtaining information from the Internet on copyright FAQ's, do's and don'ts, etc.
6. Terms such as: WAV, MP3, MIDI, CDA, digital vs. analog

Activity Preparation

Listen to examples of former student announcements and make note of criteria that will be used for evaluation of assignment.

Demonstrate using the software programs to rip/copy, convert, and record with a microphone and to adjust track levels in audio software.

Discuss terms associated with audio production.

Discuss planning and narration of an audio production.

Review and/or demonstrate using the Internet to conduct research.

Discuss copyrights and copy wrongs.

Resources

Supplies and materials needed for the activity:

Computer with microphone and CD drive

Audio software with ripping/copying, converting, and fading capabilities. Possibilities include:

- Microsoft Windows comes with Media Player and Sound Recorder; Free version of Musicmatch will also do a few things.
- Roxio 5: SoundStream can rip and convert; Sound Editor can record from microphone (or anything else), add simple effects, combine multiple audio clips, and delete part of audio clips. “Creator” can rip.
- Roxio 6: Audio Central can rip and convert; Sound Editor can record from microphone (or anything else), add simple effects, combine multiple audio clips, and delete part of audio clips. “Creator” can rip.
- Audacity: Can record from microphone (or anything else), add simple effects, combine multiple audio clips, and delete part of audio clips. This review is based on limited use of the program.
- Adobe Premiere: Can convert files, add simple effects, combine multiple audio clips, and delete part of audio clips. Premiere is a good place to create fades (fade in or out).
- Adobe Audition: Will do it all.
- Cool Edit: Will do it all.
- Windows Media Player: Will rip as WMA files only.

Teachers are encouraged to pick and choose parts of the assignment they would want their students to complete after reading what the programs can do and knowing what programs are available.

Stock audio would be beneficial. (Digital Juice’s “BackTraxx” is recommended.)

- a. Stock audio/image/video is royalty-free media that has been purchased and is free to use in projects.
- b. Always read users’ agreements carefully.

Web sites (and/or keywords to use for search):

Some copyright Web sites:

<http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/copypol2.htm#test>

Fair use of copyrighted materials

<http://www.mediafestival.org/downloads.html>

Copyright quizzes, articles, handouts, and charts provided by Hall Davidson

<http://www.benedict.com/>

Copyright Web site on court cases

http://www.cyberbee.com/cb_copyright.htm

Copyright with Cyberbee—an interactive quiz site with answers

Some audio Web sites:

<http://www.lsc.cc.mn.us/admin/tech/mnsat.htm>

Creating an audio file

http://www.ccd.bnl.gov/visualization/docs/guides/audio_video.html

Adding audio to video files

<http://www.tcaps.com/ht/audio/default.htm>

Information on “how to” for audio files

http://hotwired.lycos.com/webmonkey/multimedia/audio_mp3/

Webmonkey Web site

Key words: *audio, audio primer, audio FAQ's, free audio conversion, convert audio files, free audio editing, Digital Juice BackTraxx, copyright FAQ's, do's and don'ts*

Books, articles, and other resources:

Brown, T. (2004). *Cubase SX for Macintosh and Windows: Visual quickstart guide*. Berkeley, CA: Peachpit Press (Pearson Education).

Lich, B. (2003). *DVD burning solutions*. Boston, MA: Thomson Course Technology.

Middleton, C. (2003). *Complete guide to digital audio*. Boston, MA: Thomson Course Technology.

Roback, S. (2004). *Pro Tools 6 for Macintosh and Windows: Visual quickstart guide*. Berkeley, CA: Peachpit Press (Pearson Education).