

Step-by-Step

Create a digital storytelling artifact using iMovie4

“Portfolios tell a story...put in anything that helps to tell the story” (Pearl and Leon Paulson, 1991, p. 294).

A reflective digital storytelling artifact uses a digital video editing program to tell a story with still images, an audio/music track and your voice narration.

Much of the philosophy and development process for Digital Storytelling can be found at The Center for Digital Storytelling (<http://www.storycenter.org/>)

Here is a summary of the process:

- Collect digital images in JPEG format to be used in the story and import them onto iMovie’s “shelf” (or import from iPhoto)
- Create a storyboard that outlines the story to be created, organizing the images on iMovie’s “shelf” (or iPhoto or Inspiration)
- Write a script, select already-written reflections, or plan to record the narration extemporaneously (more appropriate with younger children).
- Record the audio clip and place it on Audio Track #1 on the Timeline Viewer (or import from an audio file)
- Apply the “Ken Burns” effect, if appropriate.
- Place the images in the appropriate order on the Clip Viewer or the Timeline Viewer in iMovie.
- Add any titles, and insert any effects, where appropriate.
- Insert transitions between images, as appropriate. Adjust the length of each image to match the audio track..
- Add a music track to Audio Track #2.
- Export story to either videotape or Quicktime format.

For a free online tutorial on iMovie2, go to <http://www.atomiclearning.com/> and select the Free iMovie tutorial. Apple’s free tutorials (PDF and movies) are online at: <http://www.apple.com/support/imovie/>

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Seven Conceptual elements of digital storytelling

The Center for Digital Storytelling (<http://www.storycenter.org>) identifies seven conceptual elements of digital storytelling:

1. Start with Point of View – who is telling the story and why and what do they want the audience to get out of it – who is the audience? What is your purpose?
2. Dramatic Question – What is the need/problem? What should people be focusing on? What answer are you going to provide through your story – all about making and finding meaning?
3. Emotional Content – What you need to talk about. It comes from the heart – Do what matters to you – Use the story for sharing something important.
4. Your Voice – the most personal element – tell your own story.
5. Sound track – music builds the mood you want in your story
6. Economy – stories are about hearing and thinking – start with still images (maybe only 10 maximum)
7. Pacing – rhythm of the piece – “The rhythm of a story determines much of what sustains an audience’s interest.”

“...there is no right or wrong way to compose in this situation—script first or image sequence first. Different people have intuitive skills in the visual or text modes.”

“Digital Storytelling begins with the notion that in the not distant future, sharing one's story through the multiple mediums of digital imagery, text, voice, sound, music, video and animation will be the principle hobby of the world's people. Toward that end, we contribute an essay on the development of the memory appliance, and the need to "ground" these tools in the human search for meaning in one's life.”

(The Center for Digital Storytelling
<http://www.storycenter.org/memorybox.html>)

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Creating the digital story with iMovie

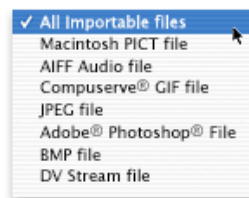
Write a script, select already-written reflections, or plan to record the narration extemporaneously (more appropriate with younger children).

The best script is one that draws on real life experience. Some suggestions for content include journal entries and reflections a student has written. Some students may be more comfortable speaking their reflections rather than reading. This is where an audio narration can be a powerful substitute to written work.

Collect digital images in JPEG format to be used in the story and import them onto iMovie's "Shelf".

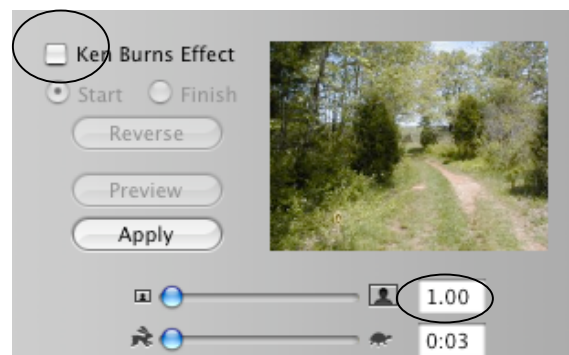
1. Select **File Menu -> Import**
2. Navigate to the location where the JPEG files are stored. Select the image (use the preview menu if available). Repeat as many times as necessary.
3. Each image will appear on iMovie's "shelf"

Here are the types of files that can be imported into iMovie using the **Import File** command.



Turn OFF Ken Burns effect before importing images

Set the Magnification to 1.00 (in Photos tab). Import and organize the images first on iMovie's Clips tab (or iPhoto Album): File Menu -> Import. Click on first image, hold down shift key, click on last image, click Open. Order image on Clips tab (= rough storyboard).



Create a storyboard that outlines the story to be created, organizing the images on iMovie's "shelf" (or use iPhoto or Inspiration)

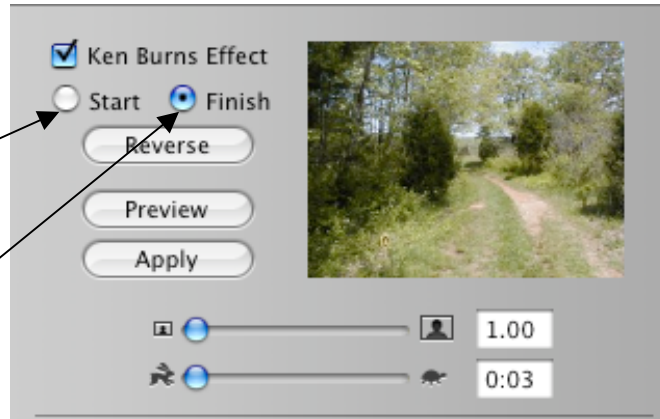
Organize the images on the Shelf to create the desired order by clicking and dragging the images on the Shelf to put them in order.

Turn ON Ken Burns effect to create "still motion"

1. Select image that you want to apply the "still motion" effect. The image can be on the timeline or on the Shelf.

2. Click on Start, set magnification on first slider bar. Click and drag image to center.

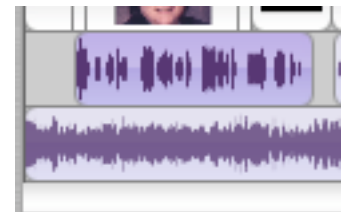
3. Click on Finish, set magnification on first slider bar. Click and drag image to change position.



4. Set length of clip on second slider
5. Click Preview to see the effect. Adjust as needed.
6. Click Apply. The video clip will be placed on the timeline (or will be changed if already in the timeline)

Record the audio clip and place it on Audio Track #1 on the Timeline Viewer (or import from an audio file)

1. Place the Playhead where you want the audio to be placed.
2. Select the Audio button.
3. Click the Record Voice button. Wait one second before beginning to speak.
4. Click the Stop button when finished. The audio clip should show on Audio Track 1 in the Timeline Viewer.
5. To import an audio file, place the Playhead where the sound will be inserted. select **File Menu -> Import File** and select the audio file (in AIFF format). The file should appear in Track 1.



Audio files can be shortened by dragging the arrows that appear at either end of the clip. You can also show the audio track wave forms by selecting that option in the Preferences (iMovie Menu -> Preferences).

For more information about inserting audio clips into the video, consult Apple's Step-by-Step "Adding Sound and Music in iMovie"

Place the images in the appropriate order on the Clip Viewer or the Timeline Viewer in iMovie.

1. Select the image on the Shelf, and drag it into the Clip Viewer or the Timeline Viewer
2. To change the order, click and drag along the Clip Viewer Track.

Add any titles, and insert any effects, as needed.

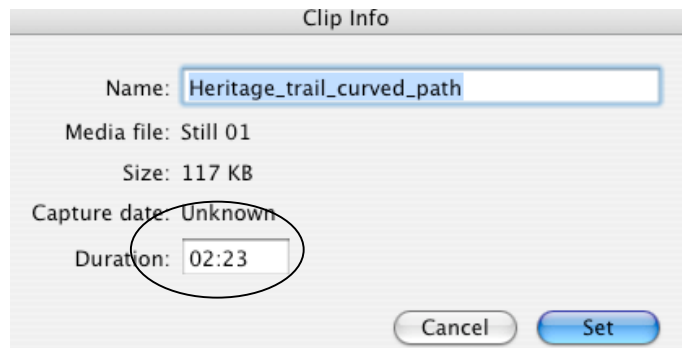
For more information about inserting titles and effects into the video, consult Apple's Step-by-Step "Adding Titles in iMovie" and "Adding Video Effects in iMovie"

Insert transitions between images, as appropriate. Adjust the length of each image to match the audio track..

For more information about inserting transitions in iMovie, consult Apple's Step-by-Step "Adding Transitions in iMovie"

To adjust the length of an image, double-click on the image in either the Timeline Viewer or Clip Viewer, and the time will appear on the bottom of that part of the dialogue box. You can type in a new time (in seconds: 1/30 of second).

NOTE: If you have applied the "Ken Burns" effect to a still image, then you must adjust the length in the **Photos tab** by **Updating** the effect.

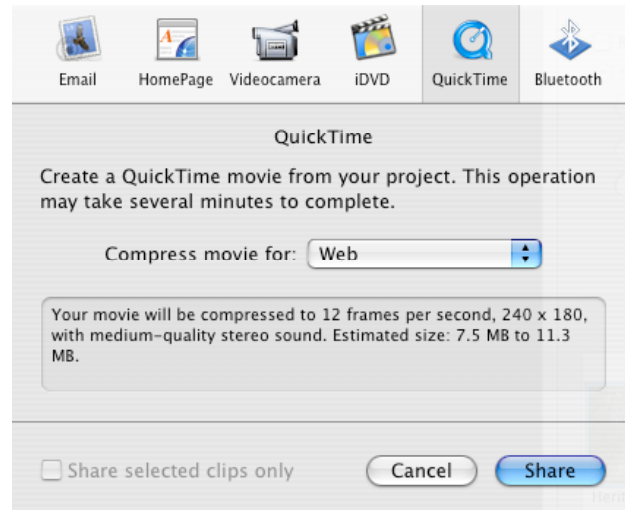


Add a music track to Audio Track #2.

For more information about inserting music clips into the video, consult Apple's Step-by-Step "Adding Sound and Music in iMovie"

Export story to either videotape or QuickTime.

1. To export a file as a QuickTime movie, select **File Menu -> Share**.
2. Select **Quicktime** in the window that opens



These are the pre-set formats for QuickTime movies.

Email (10 FPS, 160x120 pixels, monaural sound)

Web (12 FPS, 240x180 pixels, medium stereo sound)

Web Streaming (12 FPS, 240x180 pixels, “hinted for instant play

CD-ROM: (15 FPS, 320x240 pixels, full stereo)

Full Quality DV: (30 FPS, full size, no compression)

Expert Settings (you choose your own)

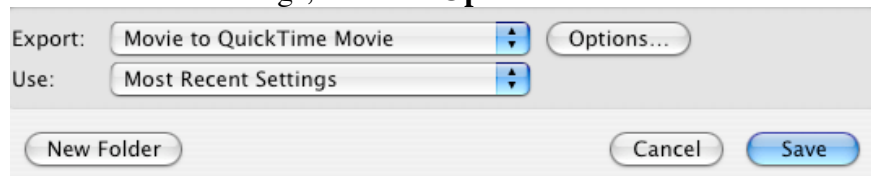
For still image movies, I recommend selecting the following **Expert** settings:

12 FPS, 720x480 (full size), full stereo quality (for hard drive or CD-ROM)

8 FPS, 320x240 for Web streaming.

Still images can be set as low as 5 frames per second (the fewer number of frames per second, the smaller the file, but the transitions will not be as smooth and the “Ken Burns” effect will be “jerky”).

3. To select these settings, click the **Options** button when asked to save the file..



4. When all the settings are complete, give the file a name and click **Save**: