

French Video Project FAQ

--Can we bring in our camera so she can show us how to use it?

Your owner's manual for the camera will be your biggest help if you don't know how to use your camera. If you no longer have the user manual, you can probably find an electronic version of it on the camera manufacturer's website.

--When you start and stop recording, what do you need to do to make it look normal?

This is where the editing of your movie will be key. You can apply transitions between scenes of your movie like fade in/fade out to make scene transitions to keep from looking jumpy. When you import your video into Windows Movie Maker, you can have it create each scene as a separate file so you can put these transitions between scenes. Basically, Movie Maker will create a separate file each time it sees that you stopped recording and then started again. Importing your movie this way will also allow you to delete unwanted scenes (or bad takes).

--If you don't want to edit, are there tricks to filming so it will turn out okay?

Ideally, each scene and take will have to be perfect and continuous on the camera if you don't want to edit. If your camera has a fade feature, you can use the fade in and fade out when you start and stop the camera to lessen the effect of transition between scenes and/or stops in your taping.

--Once you have filmed the movie, how do you get it from the camera to the computer?

You will have to use the cable that came with your camera to connect to a computer. Only newer digital video cameras will do this. Refer to your owner's manual for the camera. Windows Movie Maker has a feature to pull in the video once you have the camera connected to the computer.

--How do you edit?

You have to import the video from your camera into a video editing software package. I suggest that you use Windows Movie Maker.

--Is there standard editing software on most computers?

Windows Movie Maker comes standard with Windows XP Service Pack 3 and Windows Vista. You can download and install Windows Movie Maker Live for free on a Windows 7 machine by visiting this website, <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=741CE3ED-BAA2-4610-9F7D-42AB694E2B15&displaylang=en> . To make this easier, visit Mrs. Bragg's EaglePoint page off of the High School page to click the link. This newest version can also be installed in Windows Vista if you want the updated version to work with.

--What editing software is available to use at school and when can we use it?

The Clara Belle COW at school as well as some Eloise machines have Windows Movie Maker on them. You can use one of these machines in the library anytime the library is open and those computers are available for use.

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--How would you add narration and music?

If you don't narrate or play the music while you are taping, you can add these items in Windows Movie Maker while you are editing your movie. You will need a good computer microphone to record the narration. I would suggest one that is a headset. This type seems to do the best at cutting out background noise during the recording. For music, you will need the MP3 file for the music to add into Movie Maker.

--Is there an easy way to add credits?

Windows Movie Maker has a feature for adding credits at the end of your movie. There is also a feature for adding a film title screen at the beginning of the movie.

--How do you put it all together?

When you are finished editing your movie in Windows Movie Maker, you can save the movie to your computer. If you are using the newest version of Windows Movie Maker provided in the link above, you can also save it directly to a DVD if you have a DVD burner on the computer you are using. Our school computers do have DVD burners so you would just need a blank DVD. If you are using the older version of Windows Movie Maker, you will have to use your own software to burn the movie to a DVD.

--Can you take lyrics out of songs? (address use of music on videos)

You can use any music you want in your project if you are only plan to submit this movie to your teacher for a grade. If you plan to use this movie any other way including sharing it on the web to friends, you **MUST** make sure you don't use copyrighted music. There is a lot of free music with no copyright restrictions available through the web. Search for it using Google or another search engine. Make sure you read any fine print about using the music you find before you use it!

--If you have different camera angles on different disks, how do you combine them into one movie?

Import all of them into Windows Movie Maker using the import video feature. You can then use the software to combine the different scenes. You can do things like split a video clip and delete part of it to be replaced with a different clip. Use the Help button inside Movie Maker to get to an FAQ as well as Help pages with how-to's like these.

--What is the procedure for using the school's cameras?

You can check them out of the school library. Visit the circulation desk and just ask about checking out a camera.