Chapter 2: Experimentation, Integration, Play: Developing Digital Voice Through Audio Storytelling

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Audacity Workshop (Handout)

Walk through the following phases at your own pace during today's workshop.

Phase 1: The Software

✓ Install and open up Audacity and familiarize yourself with the interface. Read through the "Toolbar Overview" info page for information about the tools: http://manual.audacityteam.org/o/man/toolbars_overview.html.

✓ Find the Selection Tool and the Time Shift Tool.

The Selection tool allows you to move the playhead and select a portion of a file.

The Time Shift Tool allows you to take a selected portion and move it.

✓ Under the Edit menu, find and write down the keystrokes for the following:
Cut: _____
Paste: _____
Delete: _____
Split (under Clip Boundaries): _____

Phase 2: Recording Multiple Sounds

• Using Audacity, record yourself *slowly* speaking the following sentence, pausing in the middle. Listen to your recording (use the spacebar as a play and stop button).
"Mary had a little lamb … [pause] … whose fleece was white as snow."

• Press "mute" on the track you just recorded. On a second track, record yourself speaking your first name, and listen to it. Press "mute" on this second track.

• On a third track, record yourself stating the name of an animal of your choice. Listen to your recording.

Phase 3: Editing Sounds

• Using the cut and/or delete functions under Edit, eliminate the pause in the middle of your sentence.

• Cut out the name "Mary" in the first track. Using the time shift tool or the copy function, replace "Mary" with your own name.

• Delete the word "lamb" in the first track and insert your own animal.

Phase 4: Adding Music

• Go to ccmixter.org. Using the "Dig" or "Search" function, locate and save a song of your choice. Record the song's licensing information here:
License information of chosen song: _____

• Import the song into your Audacity project and adjust its placement and volume to accompany your sentence.

• Using the envelope tool, fade the music in and out.

Phase 5: Play Around

• Record or import any other sounds or words you'd like to add to your exploration.

• Play around with the effects menu to manipulate your sounds.

- Read and try out additional tutorials (https://manual.audacityteam.org/man/tutorials.html) to learn and practice other effects.

Phase 6: Produce and Upload

- Under the "File" menu, select "Export" to produce your audio file (select .mp3).

- Rejoice!