VIDEO EDITING GUIDE

**Featured Software**: Final Cut Pro X • Adobe Premiere Pro • iMovie

What You’ll Learn:

1. Create a New Project
2. Import Media
3. Navigate the Timeline
4. Place and Arrange Clips
5. Use the Blade Tool (Cutting)
6. Use the Select Tool (Moving/Trimming)
7. Export Your Video
8. Tips for Beginners

# 1. Creating a New Project

Creating a new project is our starting point for video editing. Each program handles this a

little differently and offers different starting formats and options. Familiarize yourself with

the terminology and utilize the help resources available if you need additional guidance.

| **Final Cut Pro X:** | **Adobe Premiere Pro:** | **iMovie:** |
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| * Go to File > New > Project. * Name your project. * Save inside an Event (create one if needed). | * Click New Project. * Name it and choose a save location. * Click OK to begin. | * Open iMovie and click Create New > Movie. * A blank project will open automatically. |

# 2. Importing Media

After creating our projects, the next step is to gather our media and import it to the new

project. Editing software can utilize a variety of different media including videos, music

files, and images. Some file types may not be compatible with certain software but usually

can be converted to a compatible format if needed.

| **Final Cut Pro X:** | **Adobe Premiere Pro:** | **iMovie:** |
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| * Press Command + I or click Import Media. * Select files and click Import Selected. | * Use File > Import or Control/Command + I. * Or drag files into the Project Panel. | * Click the Import Media button (arrow down icon). * Choose your files and click Import Selected. |

# 3. Navigating the Timeline

The timeline is where we place clips in a sequence for the purpose of editing. It is important

to introduce the zoom tool when talking about the timeline. The zoom tool is

represented by a magnifying glass icon. When you click on the timeline using the zoom

tool, it will zoom into the timeline to allow you more precise editing. Conversely, if you hold

the alt button while clicking on the timeline with the zoom tool. It will display a minus sign

instead of the default plus sign indicating that it will zoom out to show more of the timeline.

Each has their use. We usually want to zoom in to move the playhead frame by frame to

make a precise cut on the clip. We zoom out when we want to move entire clips or edited

clips to different places on the timeline to change our sequence order.

| **All three apps work similarly:** |
| --- |
| * The Timeline is where you arrange your video. * Use the Spacebar to play/pause. * Move the Playhead to scrub through video. * The Zoom Tool (z) to zoom into and out (alt+z) from the timeline. |

# 4. Placing Clips on the Timeline

The timeline is where we do most of our editing. The timeline is an area that is non-

destructive, meaning your original media stays intact making it as simple as using the undo

command to revert to a previous state. It is important to be

able to locate the playhead and learn how to manipulate the timeline view using the zoom

tool (z). The playhead is the movable line on the timeline that shows the current position on

your media project. It helps you navigate, edit, and preview your video.

| **Final Cut Pro X:** | **Adobe Premiere Pro:** | **iMovie:** |
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| * Drag clips from the Browser to the Timeline. | * Drag from the Project Panel into the Timeline. | * Drag clips from the Media Library down into the Timeline. |

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# 5. Using the Blade Tool (Cutting Clips)

The blade or razor tool is the best tool for precision editing. The timeline allows you to move

the playhead over your clips and adjust the location frame by frame using the arrow keys on

the keyboard. Once you have decided where to trim the clip, click the blade tool to make

the cut. Then it is just a matter of selecting the portion you want to delete from your

Timeline.

| **Final Cut Pro X:** | **Adobe Premiere Pro:** | **iMovie:** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * Press B for the Blade Tool. * Click where you want to cut. | * Press C for the Razor Tool. * Click to slice a clip. | * Move the play head where you want to cut. * Press Command + B to Split the clip. |

# 6. Using the Select Tool (Moving/Trimming Clips)

The great thing about the non-linear editing tools, is that they offer a lot of flexibility when

you arrange your clips. The select tool is the primary way we manipulate and move the clips

in the timeline space. The select tool is usually represented by a standard mouse pointer

icon. When you click and drag using the select tool, you can move your clips in the timeline

space and even create additional layers of clips for green screens and other uses.

Additionally, you can select a clip by clicking it and this will display the clip properties, and

if you press the delete key, it will remove the selected clip from the timeline.

| **Final Cut Pro X:** | **Adobe Premiere Pro:** | **iMovie:** |
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| * Press A to activate the Select Tool. * Click and drag clips to move or trim. | * Press V for the Selection Tool. * Drag clips or edges to move/trim. | * Just click a clip to select it. * Drag to move or trim the ends directly in the timeline. |

# 7. Exporting Your Video

When exporting your videos, pay attention to the file types and codecs you are selecting to

export. A lot of Apple products may default to a ProRes format that can have compatibility

issues with other devices. A safe choice for exporting is an H.264 codec in a mp4 file type.

| **Final Cut Pro X:** | **Adobe Premiere Pro:** | **iMovie:** |
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| * Go to File > Share > Master File. * Choose settings, then Next and Save | * Go to File > Export > Media or press Command + M. * Set Format to H.264. * Click Export. | * Click the Share button (top right). * Choose File. * Select settings and click Next. * Name your file and Save. |

# Tips for Beginners:

* Stay organized, use folders for media.
* Watch tutorials if you're stuck, YouTube has tons of resources and tutorials.
* Be imaginative. Video editing requires creative thinking. If you can imagine it, you can probably make it.
* Video editing skills become better over time. As you create more content, learn from your mistakes.
* Watch and discuss your completed projects together. Students can learn from each other's successes and failures. Create a safe environment to view your videos as a class and showcase what went well but also offers opportunities to demonstrate ways to improve.