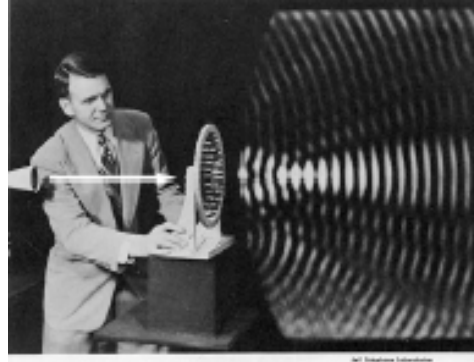


audio finger exercise



task: audio finger exercise

In this finger exercise, your job is to combine and edit several audio files (some of which we'll provide, others of which you'll record), with the goal of creating a layered audio composition.

Your composition should include, as separate layers,

- music,
- interview material,
- and voice-over reflection.

The composition should be between 60 and 90 seconds in length.

step #1: listen

Listen to the 4 recorded audio files we have provided you on your portable hard drive in the folder named “Audio Finger Exercise”: three of the files are music conveying various moods, and one is a recorded narrative about an incident at school.

step #2: reflect and record

Working with a partner, reflect orally on the narrative (or reflect on how the narrative relates to your coming to DMAC or reflect on a personal memory that relates to the narrative). Ask your partner to record your oral reflection, offering a few prompting questions if appropriate.

Record no more than 2 minutes of audio reflection. You can do all your reflections in one audio clip (press Pause if you want to stop) or separate them in different audio clips (press Stop between reflections).

When you work with your partner, use two separate audio recorders and record your reflection on your own audio recorder. Don't worry if you both have similar reflections, you'll each end up making a separate audio project.

step #3: upload and listen

On your portable hard drive locate the “Audio Finger Exercise” folder. Nested in that folder, you will find 4 folders:

- the “Music” folder, which contains three recorded music files that exhibit different moods,
- the “Narrative” folder, which contains the original narrative on school that we have provided,
- the “Reflection” folder, in which you will store the audio reflection file you record yourself, and
- the “Project” folder, in which you will save your final, layered-and-edited audio finger exercise.

Plug in your portable hard drive and your audio recorder into a computer. Upload the audio reflection clip(s) you have recorded to the “Reflection” folder:

Hard Drive → Audio Finger Exercise → Reflection

Rename the reflection file(s) so you know what each file contains (for example, Jane Smith might name a file “smith-reflection-summer-vacation”). Listen to all of your audio assets—those you’ve recorded and those we’ve provided—to get a good sense of what you have to work with.

step#4: import

Next, create a new Audacity file and—before you add anything to it—save it as “lastname-audio-exercise” (e.g., “dewitt-audio-exercise”) on your portable hard drive in the “Project” folder nested within the “Audio Finger Exercise” folder:

Hard Drive → Audio Finger Exercise → Project

Now, you will import all of the files you want to use for your audio composition. In the “file” menu, hover over “import” and select “audio” from the pop-up menu. Import the music and narrative we’ve provided, as well as the reflection(s) you have recorded:

Hard Drive → Audio Finger Exercise → Music
→ Narrative
→ Reflection

Each file will appear as a separate track (layer) within your Audacity project. Label each track (layer) appropriately, following best practices in file naming conventions. Save your project before continuing.

step #5: edit

Select short clips of the material you want to use in each track. Drag clips (with the double-headed arrow \leftrightarrow) to arrange (or re-arrange) them in the sequence you want them to play. Cut excess material you do not want from each track. Add fade outs and fade ins, overlaps, and/or other effects. **Remember: save often.**

As the tracks begin to settle into a cohesive composition, adjust the volumes (“amplify” in the “effect” menu), sequencing, and positions so that the layers speak to each other in a conversation and convey a single overall message.

step #4: listen, save, export

Listen to your own composition several times to make sure that the layers work well with one another. At every given moment of your composition, make sure that the layer that provides the primary focus remains in the foreground and the complementary layers remain in the mid- or background.

Your final composition should be between 60 and 90 seconds in length.

Now you’re ready to export the audio in MP3 format. In the “file” menu, click on “export” and make sure to select “MP3 Files” in the format menu. Name the file “lastname-audio-exercise” (e.g., “jones-audio-exercise”), and make sure that you’re saving to the “Project” folder within the “Audio Finger Exercise” folder on your portable hard drive:

Hard Drive → Audio Finger Exercise → Project