



Adobe® Premiere®
Elements 11

CLASSROOM IN A BOOK®

The official training workbook from Adobe Systems

Instructor Notes



Adobe® Premiere® Elements 11 Classroom in a Book®

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Introduction

The Adobe® Premiere® Elements 11 Classroom in a Book® course presents students with tips, techniques, and solutions for using Adobe Premiere Elements. These Instructor Notes are intended to complement the information in the Adobe Premiere Elements 11 Classroom in a Book.

The information is organized to follow the sequence of instruction in each lesson. However, the notes are not intended to expand on each and every exercise but rather to point out potential teaching opportunities not specifically covered in the lesson or areas where students might easily be confused.

Course strategy

The book includes a Getting Started chapter and 12 lessons, which will take various lengths of time to complete. You can teach approximately one chapter of this book per session but—depending upon the number and duration of sessions in your class—you may wish to combine related exercises from some of the shorter lessons, or split up the more involved lessons. To this end, you should personally assess the complexity of the exercises in each lesson. Some non-essential exercises—and exercises that require Internet access when online connections are not available in the classroom—may best be assigned as follow-up homework.

The following lesson summaries will help you structure your course:

- **Getting Started** explains how to install the application software and how to copy the lesson files from the application CD into the lessons folders. In the classroom setting, this instruction is best combined with Lesson 1, so your students will have access to a project with videos when they begin to explore the application interface.

Please note that several of the projects used in these lessons include content, such as templates, that is available only in a full installation of Adobe Premiere Elements. Accordingly, you should advise your students to perform a complete application installation. Also note that the lessons and associated files used in this book will occupy over 2.4 GB of hard disk space.

Although substantial care went into ensuring that all project files will automatically locate component files without user intervention, it's impossible to predict all installation scenarios, particularly since the product is cross-platform, Mac and Windows. We hope that neither you nor your students will encounter problems; but if you do, you should be able to locate any unfound files and relink them within Adobe Premiere Elements.

- **Lesson 1** describes how students will use Adobe Premiere Elements to produce movies while introducing them to the key panels, workspaces, and views found in Adobe Premiere Elements.

- **Lesson 2** teaches how to create a project, set relevant user preferences, and configure the interface. If some students are tempted to skip this chapter, you might advise them that they will not be able to change their project settings after they've chosen those settings and started editing. While Adobe Premiere Elements is a flexible and customizable program, your students may have to redo their work if they start a project with wrong settings.

Depending on your class schedule, you should consider teaching at least Lessons 1 and 2 in concert because they are both introductory in nature and relatively brief.

- **Lesson 3** explains how to capture and import video from camcorders and other video devices in Adobe Premiere Elements. Students learn how to connect a camcorder to their computers; and use Video Importer to import video from an AVCHD camcorder, digital still camera, DVD, or DVD-based camcorder. They'll also discover how to import audio, video, or still images already located on their hard drives.

Although no project file is provided with this chapter, the final exercise does guide the student in importing book content from a folder on her hard drive. The capture process is very device specific, and you should consider how best to illustrate this in a class setting when students are using a multitude of different video devices, or have no classroom access to any video device.

- **Lesson 4** introduces students to the organizational workspaces in Adobe Premiere Elements; which includes a full version of the Elements Organizer. Students will use each workspace, and also dive into Adobe Premiere Elements' Auto-Analyze feature that adds Smart Tags to the content, which feeds into Adobe Premiere Elements SmartFix and Smart Trim functions and InstantMovie functionality. Students customize and create an InstantMovie as part of this lesson.
- **Lesson 5** details Adobe Premiere Elements' Quick and Expert views, and explores various "nuts and bolts" editing tasks, such as inserting, deleting, splitting, and rearranging clips in both views. Students also learn how to work with Smart Trim in Adobe Premiere Elements.
- **Lesson 6** is the Effects lesson. Students learn the difference between curative and artistic effects, and when and how to apply them. You'll also introduce them to Adobe Premiere Elements' SmartFix function, and the program's ability to apply one effect to many clips, and remove effects from many clips simultaneously. Specific tasks include improving video appearance via Premiere Elements Color (RGB) effect, creating a pan and zoom effect with a still image, controlling effects with keyframes, creating a picture-in-picture effect, and compositing one video with another using Adobe Premiere Elements' Videomerge function.

- **Lesson 7** demonstrates how to add nuance and dimension to movies by using transitions between clips. Students apply a transition to single and multiple clips, preview transitions, customize transition settings, copy and paste transitions, create fade-ins and fade-outs, and render transitions for high quality preview.
- **Lesson 8** examines Adobe Premiere Elements' title-related tools. Students create original titles and rolling credits for a production, and use some of the title templates that are installed with the application.
- **Lesson 9** examines the multiple audio-related features in Adobe Premiere Elements, including a real time narration tool; the ability to create, add, and modify background music tracks; and the multi-track mixer that can control volume levels within clips. To explore these features, students create a background music track, adjust the volume of an audio clip, add a narration clip, and mix the audio with Smart Mix and Adobe Premiere Element's Audio Mixer for maximum impact.
- **Lesson 10** is aimed at students who want to record their projects on a DVD or Blu-ray disc, upload their content to a WebDVD, or create an AVCHD disk, a format that records HD videos onto a standard DVD for playback on a Blu-ray player. Students add menu markers to their videos, create, customize, and preview menus; and then burn a DVD or Blu-ray disc. Since Adobe Premiere Elements can record a disc image to a hard drive (in addition to recording the content to an actual disc), your students don't need a DVD or Blu-ray recorder to follow along with this lesson.
- **Lesson 11** explains how students can share their videos with friends, families, and associates, including uploading their videos to YouTube, exporting a video file for subsequent viewing from a hard disk or mobile video device, and recording video to DV/HDV tape media.
- **Lesson 12** shows how to use Adobe Photoshop Elements and Adobe Premiere Elements in concert to seamlessly combine digital photography and video editing. Students create a Photoshop file optimized for video and edit a Photoshop image within Adobe Premiere Elements. To complete these lessons, students must have Adobe Photoshop Elements installed on their computers.

Managing student projects

One way to simplify file storage and retrieval in classroom situations is to ask students to create a folder on their hard disks, name it [Student's] Lessons (substituting the student's actual name for "Student"), and then copy each project folder into the main Lessons folder. Having students keep all their working files in their own Lessons folder makes it easy for you to clean up files when a class is over.

New Features

The most significant new features in Adobe Premiere Elements 11 is the sparkling new interface, which is much more open and less cluttered. If you haven't played with the new version, you definitely need to spend some time getting familiar with it before starting class. Note that rather than the Timeline and Quick view timeline, Adobe Premiere Elements has the Quick and Expert views, and most panels and panes have been totally revamped or replaced. There are several major and many minor differences between the two views, as defined in Lesson 1 and detailed through the other lessons.

Adobe Premiere Elements 11 offers several new features, including:

- Time Remapping, a wonderful tool for adding fast, slow and reverse motion to your clips, as well as Vignetting, Temperature and Tint effects and Film Looks, as detailed in **Lesson 6**.

Getting Started

Before beginning Lesson 1, you should decide how to handle the issue of software and lesson file installation from the CIB DVD to the student computers. You may wish to prepare lesson folders for your students before the first classroom session, or teach this procedure, along with the creation of work folders and initial catalog files, as part of Lesson 1.

Note that the only essential procedure found in Getting Started that is not covered in Lesson 1 is reconnecting missing files to a project.

Lesson 1: The World of Digital Video

This lesson introduces how students will use Adobe Premiere Elements to produce movies and previews the key panels, workspaces, and views they'll use in Adobe Premiere Elements.

In a classroom situation, it would be best to complete the Getting Started section before you begin these lessons.

Goals for this lesson

The objective for Lesson 1 is to familiarize your students with the Adobe Premiere Elements user interface so they can locate the commands and controls they'll need to import and edit various content types into their movies.

- They should be able to load a project or start a new project.

- They should be able to identify and locate the key elements of the interface, including menus; the Monitor, Quick and Expert view timelines, the Action Bar, and Add Media, Tools, Adjust, Applied Effects, and Publish +Share panels.

Opening discussion

Your students undoubtedly will be anxious to start editing their videos, but also a bit apprehensive about learning a new program. Let them know that the first two lessons will be introductory but that, starting with the third lesson, they'll be capturing video and fully editing video by the fourth lesson.

Discuss that learning the interface and workflows will help them become more efficient for all future projects. Though the activity is not as exciting as actual editing, it's an essential step in mastering video editing.

How Adobe Premiere Elements fits into video production

Before opening Adobe Premiere Elements, start by discussing the movie making process in general, from importing content, to editing, to rendering, to final format for sharing. Consider reviewing the table of contents and spending a few moments discussing what the students will learn and accomplish in each lesson.

Then open Adobe Premiere Elements, and Click Organize to open the Elements Organizer, not Adobe Premiere Elements. Note that you'll actually create the project in the Organizer. Try to get through this phase quickly, and advise the students that you'll spend more time working in the Organizer in Chapter 4.

Once in Adobe Premiere Elements, walk each student through the following steps to ensure a consistent interface:

- 1 Choose Window > Restore Workspace, to restore the workspace to the default configuration.
- 2 Click the Quick view button on top of the Monitor to make sure all students are working in that view.

Then, begin a general tour of the workspace, including the menu bar, the Monitor panel, the Quick and Expert view timelines and the Action Bar. It's best if you adapt the language used in the book and in the help file so the students learn consistent terminology. For example, resist the urge to call the Monitor panel the "preview panel."

Orient the students as to how the interface facilitates the project workflow that you just discussed in the table of contents. Point out that students will import content from the Add Media panel, edit in the Quick or Expert view timeline, and preview (and perform some titling and menu creation functions) in the Monitor panel. Then move to a discussion of the individual panels.

Remember, this lesson is just a quick fly-by, not an intense, getting-acquainted section. Assure the students that they'll spend much more time in each panel in later lessons.

Monitor panel

Point the students to the Monitor panel. Note that its key function is to preview the edits performed in the Quick and Expert view timeline. Ask the students to turn down the volume on their speakers to avoid distraction as you do the same.

To match the screens in the book, consider working in the Quick view timeline. Then, working with the students, click the first clip in the Quick view timeline, and then click the Play button. Let the video play for a few moments, and then click Pause. Discuss that the controls are similar to a typical VCR or computer video player.

Have your students drag the current time indicator around the timeline, observing that this is the actual edit point in the video. Ask the students to leave the current time indicator positioned near the end of the first clip.

Identify the icons at the lower-right of the for rendering and resizing the information shown in the timeline. As you know, these controls are critical to navigating around projects and are integral to successful editing. Hover your pointer over each icon to show its tool tip.

Right-click within the Monitor and show the Magnification settings, which control the size of the video previewed in the Monitor. Make sure that it's set to 100%.

Quick and Expert view timeline

Point your students toward the timeline. Identify the Quick and Expert views. Describe each view, toggle between the two, and have your students do the same.

You'll discuss the advantages and disadvantages of both interfaces in Lesson 5, so hold off on that for now.

Interface Overview

The Premiere Elements interface has been de-cluttered so that the two dominant windows are the Monitor and timeline. Tools and panels have been clustered in three areas.

Add Media and Project Assets panels (Upper Left)

On the upper left of the interface are the Add Media and Project Assets (Expert view only) panels where your students will add content to the project and manage that content. Point these out to your students.

Action Bar (Bottom Right)

The Action Bar on the bottom provides access to tools (the Tools panel) and all libraries of content supplied with Adobe Premiere Elements, like Transitions, Titles & Text, Effects, Music and Graphics. Point these out to your students. In particular, spend some time with the individual tools in that panel, including the Movie Menu tool for applying optical disc menus, the Pan & Zoom tool for panning and zooming around a still image or video and the Time Remapping tool for customizing the speed and direction of their videos.

Adjust and Applied Effects panels (Upper Right)

These two panels enable students to customize the native adjustments available on each clip (Adjust panel) or effects applied to each clip (Applied Effects).

Publish + Share Panel (Upper Right)

Once the student has completed editing, open this panel to share the project.

A few points about these panels. First, they all open and close the same way; you click the panel to open it and click it again to close it. Second, regarding the content panels in the Action Bar, make the point that the contents will differ in the Quick and Expert views. Also make the point that the Project Assets panel only appears in Expert view.

Questions

- 1 What are the primary differences between the Quick and Expert views?
- 2 What's the difference between the Adjust and Applied Effects panels.
- 3 Where do you click to render your movies into final format for distribution to friends, family, or associates?

Answers

- 1 The Quick view has fewer tracks, presents the clips as draggable scenes, doesn't have access to the Project Assets panel and doesn't provide access to all tools or content in their respective panels. The Expert view shows all clips in a traditional timeline with unlimited tracks and access to all tools and content in their respective panels, as well as access to the Project Assets panel.
- 2 The Adjust panel includes adjustments available for all clips. The Applied Effects panel lets you adjust effects that you've applied to your clips.
- 3 Click the Publish+Share button to open that panel.

Lesson 2: Getting Ready to Edit

This lesson describes how to create a project, set relevant user preferences, and configure the interface to suit individual workflows. Depending upon your class schedule, you should consider teaching Lessons 1 and 2 in concert since they are both introductory in nature and fairly brief.

Goals for this lesson

The objectives for this lesson are to teach your students how to choose the optimal presets for their projects, to set relevant preferences, and to customize Adobe Premiere Elements' application interface.

- Your students should be able to access the Project Settings screen, and choose the optimal preset for their source video and the target output.
- They should be able to recognize and diagnose settings-related issues.
- Students should be able to access and choose Project preferences such as scratch disk location.
- They should be able to drag Adobe Premiere Elements panels to a new configuration and then reset the workspace to the default configuration.

Opening discussion

The key point here is that you can't change project settings after you start editing your project. If you don't get it right up front, and have to make a change later, you'll lose all of your work. That should get the students' attention.

The big news here is that Adobe now automatically chooses the correct sequence preset for most projects, which should eliminate most of these mismatches. Still, this doesn't work 100% of the time, so students still need to know how to identify and resolve mismatches between content and the sequence preset.

Setting up a new project

In this exercise, students will open a project file with content that matches the preset and content that doesn't (Lesson02_Start_Win/Lesson02_Start_Mac). Open the project, switch to Expert view (if necessary) and discuss what letterboxes are and when they appear, and what the orange lines in the time scale area mean.

Click Edit > Project Settings and show the students where they can identify the settings for that project. If you have the time, start two new projects. Show the students how to choose the project setting and how and when to force a project setting (do not force the project setting). Make the point that the default project setting is that used for the previous project, which in this case should be AVCHD 720p square pixel.

With the first new project, import file 5.mov from the Lesson 2 folder and drag it into the timeline. Then click Edit > Project Settings again and show the students that Adobe Premiere Elements changed the setting to QuickTime DV to match the first imported clip.

Then start your second new project (don't bother to save the first, and feel free to overwrite the project you just closed). The project setting should now be NTSC-DV-Standard 48kHz because that was the setting Premiere Elements used for the previous project. Import Video 1.mov into the project and drag it into the timeline. Then click Edit > Project Settings again and show the students that Adobe Premiere Elements changed the setting to AVCHD 720p square pixel to match the first imported clip.

Ask the students to identify the camcorders that they'll be using for their own productions, and then discuss the optimal preset for their content.

Working with project preferences

In this exercise, students configure various Adobe Premiere Elements preferences. Discuss the importance of each configuration option as you examine them, and make the point that changing most preferences is applied prospectively, not retroactively. That is, if you change the default transition duration, it changes only transitions that you apply after making the change, not those you have already inserted into the project.

Customizing the workspace

This exercise walks the student through the customization options for their workspace. Make the point that they probably will reposition their interface elements frequently while creating a project; for example, maximizing the size of the Monitor panel while customizing effects, and boosting the size of the Quick and Expert view timeline when adding titles and other content to the timeline. Finally, reinforce that the student can easily restore the default workspace by choosing Window > Restore Workspace.

Homework assignment

Ask students to create a project at home using the best preset for their source footage and to input some video from that source. Ask them to write down their experiences to briefly recount which preset they used and whether they experienced any problems.

Mixed Format Project

Though not covered in the book, some students may ask about mixed format projects that combine widescreen DV and HDV (or AVCHD) footage. In these situations, the preset strategy should depend upon the output target.

That is, if producing for SD DVD, use a DV preset. Import the HDV footage as normal, and when you add the HDV footage to the Quick and Expert view timeline, Adobe Premiere Elements will automatically scale it to the lower resolution.

If producing for Blu-ray disc output, or any other HD format, use an HDV project preset. Import the DV footage as normal, and when you add it to the Quick and Expert view timeline, Adobe Premiere Elements will automatically scale it to the higher resolution. The video may look a bit grainy because of this scaling, but that's an unavoidable artifact of the process.

Questions

- 1 If you change the preferences value for transitions, which transitions are affected?
- 2 What are scratch discs, and why is it important to know their locations?

Answers

- 1 Changing preferences for transitions (and any other content) effects only those transitions that are applied after the preference change, not transitions that are already included in the project.
- 2 Scratch disks store content captured or created while producing a movie. It's important to know their locations so you can ensure that you have sufficient storage space available during a project and also to enable you to delete the content once you've finished editing.

Lesson 3: Video Capture and Import

Lesson 3 describes how to capture and import video from camcorders and other devices into Adobe Premiere Elements. Exercises detail how to connect a camcorder to a PC; how to use Video Importer to import content from various devices; and how to import audio, video, or still images from hard drives.

A project file is not provided with this chapter, though the final lesson does walk the student through importing content from a folder on her computer. Capture is very device specific, and you should consider how to best illustrate this in a class setting when students have a wide variety of video devices, or have no classroom access to any device.

Note that two basic capture interfaces are discussed, one for tape (DV, HDV), and one for clip-based devices (AVCHD, DVD, digital still cameras, mobile phones). If you can demonstrate how to capture from one device using each interface type, your students should be well equipped for whatever formats they may encounter.

When planning this lesson, be sure to check the capabilities of the computers that you and the students will be using. Nearly all modern computers have USB ports, but far fewer also have IEEE 1394 (FireWire) ports.

Goals for this lesson

The objectives for Lesson 3 are to enable students to ingest footage from multiple sources into Adobe Premiere Elements, using multiple connections.

- Your students should understand how to connect a camcorder to a computer PC for ingesting content.
- They should know which technique to use to capture their source footage.
- Beyond capturing from a camcorder, students should know how to import DVD video, digital pictures, and video from a digital camera or cell phone.
- They should know how to import video stored on a hard drive into an Adobe Premiere Elements project.

Getting started

Your students will have to create a project to complete this lesson. The project preset they choose should conform to whichever format they intend to import. For example, if they plan to import the video included on the DVD, they should use AVCHD LITE 720p 30 preset. If they plan to capture HDV, use the HDV preset.

The easiest way to involve students is to capture video from a digital camera or smart phone (virtually all digital cameras and smart phones shoot video). Ask the students to bring their devices and USB cables to class to connect their devices to their classroom computers.

Review the details of the System setup sidebar to make sure students understand what's needed in a capture/editing station.

Opening discussion

Make the point that capture setup and workflow is very device specific. If you can, try to preserve some time at the end of the class to address student-specific scenarios, and encourage the students to ask about their unique setups.

Capture interfaces

Click the Add Media button to open that panel. Note that eight capture options are available, but really only two capture interfaces, the Capture window (click the DV Camcorder button) and the Video Importer (click the Videos from Flip or Cameras button).

Identify the source devices during class and discuss how the student should proceed if the capture source device isn't specifically addressed. In particular, advise students that Videos from Flip or Cameras is the correct option when capturing from a smart phone or digital camera.

Using the Video Importer

This lesson is straightforward, and can be performed with a digital camera, smart phone, AVCHD camcorder, or DVD. At step 7, have your students preview one or two video files before ingest.

Capturing tape-based or live video

Walk the students through the steps of connecting to a computer to a DV or HDV camcorder. Be sure to review the difference between 4-pin and 6-pin IEEE 1394 connectors and advise students to get a cable that matches their hardware. For example, while most desktop computers supporting IEEE 1394 use 6-pin connectors, most notebooks that do so use 4-pin connectors. Virtually all camcorders use a 4-pin connector, so if a student is capturing to a notebook, he would need a 4-pin/4-pin cable.

Review the various capture options, especially scene detection and Smart Tagging. If using a DV or HDV camcorder, establish device control within Adobe Premiere Elements and capture some video.

Many things can go wrong during capture, so you should be very familiar with the process and be able to debug it on your capture station before conducting your class.

Importing content from your hard disk

This is the one exercise that all students should be able to perform, and one that they will use frequently during the course of their editing.

Questions

- 1 What devices typically use a IEEE 1394 cable to connect to a computer?
- 2 What devices typically use USB?
- 3 How can you locate where Adobe Premiere Elements is storing your captured video?

Answers

- 1 DV and HDV camcorders.
- 2 AVCHD camcorders and digital cameras.
- 3 You can choose a scratch disk in Preferences.

Lesson 4: Organizing Your Content

Lesson 4 teaches students how to search for and organize content for Premiere Elements projects, and how to use Adobe Premiere Elements' Smart Tagging and InstantMovie functionality. Students customize and create an InstantMovie as part of this lesson.

Goals for this lesson

The objectives for Lesson 4 are to familiarize students with Adobe Premiere Elements' main content workspaces, the Elements Organizer, the Project Assets panel (Expert view only); and to explore Smart Tagging and InstantMovies; and to detail how to work with the Auto-Analyzer function.

- Your student be able to manually tag their clips in the Organizer, and to apply Smart Tagging.
- They should be able to enable and disable the Auto-Analyzer function.
- Your students should be able to create an InstantMovie using manual and Smart Tagging.
- They should be able to add content into the Quick and Expert view timeline.

Getting started

The number of goals immediately indicates that this chapter contains lots of material. Unfortunately, while organizing content never quite sounds as exciting as trimming, cutting, and adding effects, the skills in this chapter are fundamental to efficient editing, and central to the valuable organizational capabilities of Adobe Premiere Elements.

It is absolutely critical that students complete this lesson with a clear understanding of the content contained in the Organizer and in Premiere Elements view, and when and how to use each view. When studying the Elements Organizer, they should grasp the benefits of the Auto-Analyzer, including Smart Tagging, and how and why to apply manual Tagging.

For most other lessons, simply working through the exercises can transfer the critical knowledge. In this lesson, however, the instructor must synthesize the exercises into high-level concepts to ensure that students “get it.” In this regard, the instructor may want to spend a bit more prep time working through this lesson.

Opening discussion

Organization sounds boring, but it's essential to efficient editing. Adobe Premiere Elements has three interfaces that help producers work more efficiently.

The Elements Organizer is the master organization tool for collecting and tagging and then deploying all still image, video and music content loaded on the computer. The Elements Organizer contains functions like Smart Tags that can cut down movie creation time to mere minutes. It's also invaluable for finding content to use in subsequent projects, and for backing up content to Photoshop.com.

The Project Assets panel (Expert view only) contains all the content imported into the project, and it offers features like trimming and sorting tools. In previous versions of Premiere Elements, the Project Assets panel provided access to many of the same searching tools as the Elements Organizer, but it no longer does. Instead, use the search tools in the Organizer to find the desired content and drag it into Premiere Elements' Project Assets panel.

Working in the Project Assets panel

This section works through the search capabilities in the Project Assets panel and finishes by detailing how to add clips to the project.

Tagging in the Organizer

Open the Elements Organizer and define the “big picture” benefits of manual and Smart Tagging (via the Auto-Analyzer) which include the easy ability to find relevant content and automated functions like Smart Trim, SmartFix and creating Instant Movies.

Note that the Elements Organizer now makes it simple to organize clips into groups for People, Places and Events, which is a great convenience for many producers. After this explanation, the lessons regarding manual tagging are straightforward and can be worked through quickly.

About the Auto Analyzer

Detail how to manually run the Auto Analyzer, and detail what it does. Then review the information that it collects and how it drives functions like Smart Trim and SmartFix and enhances the InstantMovie functions.

However, advise the students that on underpowered computers with slow CPUs or limited RAM, the Auto Analyzer running in the background could make the computer sluggish or unstable, particularly when working with HD source footage. Be sure to review how to disable this function in the Elements Organizer Preferences window.

Creating an InstantMovie

This is the payoff, and the exercise is fun and fast. At some point, make these points about what an InstantMovie does and doesn't do.

- InstantMovie creates a music video using the clips in the Project Assets panel. If there's dialog you're hoping to maintain, forget it. You can't tell a story with an InstantMovie, but you can create a short, fun montage that showcases a trip or event.
- You can use an InstantMovie as a section of a larger production. For example, if you are producing a wedding video, you could include the ceremony and toasts in their entirety, and use an InstantMovie to depict the reception or parties.
- When creating an InstantMovie, you can't trim or edit the clips in advance. You just select or deselect them. You can edit the InstantMovie after it's created (show the students how to do this), but this might throw off the tempo and timing. If you want more control, you can apply a Theme to clips on the Timeline, though this is not demonstrated in the book.

Questions

- 1 Ask the students about the utility of the Elements Organizer. For students who work with pictures and video, ask how many would invest the time for manual tagging. Ask questions to make sure they understand the utility of the Auto-Analyzer function, and when to consider disabling it.
- 2 What are the advantages and disadvantages of InstantMovies vs. applying a Theme to content on the Timeline?

Answers

- 1 Utility of the Elements Organizer
 - Allows users to categorize content into People, Places and Events.
 - A great starting point for projects using disk-based assets, especially where you need to search through a number of files to find the right ones.
 - The Auto-Analyzer produces Smart Tags used for Smart Trim, SmartFix, and creating InstantMovies, along with providing tags that students can use to find or eliminate certain classes of content, like shots with faces or shaky or low quality footage.
 - While analyzing clips, the Auto-Analyzer consumes lots of system resources. Consider disabling if editing becomes unresponsive or if the system becomes unstable.
- 2 InstantMovies are created from clips in the Project Assets panel or Elements Organizer. You could also select clips via Tagging and Smart Tagging in the Organizer, drag them to the Timeline, and then apply a Theme.
 When using InstantMovies, you have no real editing input beyond selecting the clips to include. You can cut out portions of any clip that you don't want included before applying a Theme.

Lesson 5: Editing Video

Lesson 5 introduces students to Adobe Premiere Elements' Quick and Expert view timelines, and to fundamental editing tasks like inserting, deleting, splitting, and rearranging clips in both views. It also introduces the student to Adobe Premiere Elements time saving feature, Smart Trim.

Goals for this lesson

The objectives for Lesson 5 are to enable students to perform basic editing tasks in both the Quick and Expert view timelines.

- Your student should appreciate that trimming, cutting, splitting, and deleting video is fundamental to creating high-quality, watchable movies.
- Your student should understand how to use Smart Trim mode to quickly remove lower-quality segments from their videos.
- They should understand the difference between the Quick and Expert view timelines; when to use each; and how to insert, move, trim, split, and delete clips in each.
- Your students should become very capable with the Monitor panel in both the Quick and Expert view timelines.
- They should learn keyboard shortcuts to speed their editing.

Getting started

Basic editing skills, such as those taught in this chapter, are the most important fundamentals that students can learn. This chapter is long, with lots of material to process. In a classroom setting, you should consider dropping the section on the Quick view and moving directly to the Expert view.

Opening discussion

For the movie *Gone with the Wind*, IMDB reports that over 500,000 feet of film was shot, but only 20,000 feet was used in the actual production, about 4% of the total footage. While your students probably won't cut that much from their productions, it's important to stress that the best way to make a movie watchable is to cut as much footage as possible.

Though it's hard to imagine that GTWT director Victor Fleming lived by this creed (the movie was 226 minutes long), shorter is almost always better for personal and business-related movies. As a result, skills learned during this lesson are critical to producing watchable films.

Working with the Monitor panel

You and your class may be tempted to skip through this section because it's so basic, but students should use each control to identify its function. In class, perform each step of the exercise with the students to ensure their comprehension.

You should also describe what rendering is, why it's important sometimes (and why it's not important for all edits), and how to render a work area of the timeline.

Editing in Quick view

For this exercise, consider having the students delete the last five clips, and then add them back to the project. You should have touched on the Quick view timeline in previous lessons. Reiterate its advantages:

- Simple to understand (if you can create slideshow, you can create a movie).
- Very easy to shift content around.

And its disadvantages:

- Somewhat cumbersome when you have placed multiple clips at the same spot in the project (layered clips).
- Cumbersome when you are using content that spans more than one piece of content, like a background music track, or title above multiple clips.
- Incomplete access to all panels (no Project Assets panel) and incomplete access to content in other panels.

Emphasize skills learned during the trimming and splitting sections. Observe that splitting is a key skill even when capturing with scene detection enabled because producers often have to carve multiple scenes out of a single clip.

Working through the exercises should be straightforward.

Working in Expert View

For this lesson, consider having the students delete the last five clips, and then add them back to the project. You should have touched on the Expert view in previous lessons. Reiterate its advantages:

- Offers the best visualization when using multiple layers, or when adding content that spans the duration of other content (such as background music).
- Can easily view the duration of each section and the entire movie.
- Full access to all Premiere Elements panels, tools and content.

And its disadvantage:

- Not as intuitive as the Quick view timeline.

Emphasize skills learned during the trimming and splitting sections. Observe that splitting is a key skill even when capturing with scene detection because often producers have to carve multiple scenes out of a single clip.

Creating a Slide Show

This is a fun exercise for students working with lots of still images and video.

Working in Smart Trim Mode

Smart Trim is a feature of Adobe Premiere Elements 11 that automatically identifies regions with quality issues. You should take the time to review both modes of operation – manual and automatic – and discuss when to use each.

If you're relying heavily on the sample assets on the DVD, make the point that because of disc space limits on the disc, most bad footage was chopped out manually while creating the project. For this reason, Smart Trim may not appear to be as valuable as it would be with most original source footage.

If you can find some other source footage to use to demonstrate Smart Trim, it might better represent the value this feature offers to Adobe Premiere Elements users.

Questions

- 1 Compare the pros and cons of the Quick and Expert views.
- 2 Identify the most important keyboard shortcuts for Timeline use.
- 3 What are the two modes available in Smart Trim mode, and when would you use each?

Answers

- 1 The Quick view timeline has the advantage during the early stages of a project, when you're adding, splitting and rearranging content. Expert view is best when you start refining the project, especially when you start adding layers of content.

Overall, Expert view is more capable than Quick view, and most advanced editors work exclusively in the Expert view. That said, the Quick view is useful until you become more familiar with Premiere Elements and the editing workflow.

- 2 Timeline keyboard shortcuts:
 - Play/pause – space bar
 - Arrow keys – frame-by-frame forward/back
 - =/- keys – zoom in/out on the timeline
 - / (backslash) fit entire video on the timeline

- 3 The two Smart Trim operating modes are manual, which identifies problem areas and lets the editor trim them out, and automatic, which deletes all problem areas. Probably best if students use manual mode until they're comfortable that automatic mode won't delete some clips that might be technically low quality but nonetheless essential to the production.

You know, like that moving shot where you follow your spouse in from the kitchen carrying the birthday cake with candles. Smart Trim might identify this as shaky, but you probably want to leave it in nonetheless.

Lesson 6: Working with Effects

In Lesson 6 students will learn the difference between curative and artistic effects, and when and how to apply them.

Goals for this lesson

The objectives for Lesson 6 are to enable students to apply and configure curative and other effects in Adobe Premiere Elements.

- Your students should understand the types of effects, including curative and artistic. They should also understand how SmartFix works and the benefits of this feature.
- They should know how to adjust brightness and contrast, adjust color balance and fix backlighting, and adjust clip position using Motion controls.
- Your students should be able to customize effects with key frames, and copy and paste effects between clips.
- Your students should be able to animate a still image using the Pan and Zoom effect.
- Your students should be able to change the playback speed of a clip using Premiere Elements Time Remapping tool.
- Time permitting, students should learn how to create a picture-in-picture effect, and how to composite one video over another using Videomerge.

Getting started

This is another lengthy lesson. Many sections are conceptually difficult, yet very important to successful editing. It is important that you choose the most important subjects to discuss, and make sure that you have enough time to teach them effectively.

Fortunately, students can perform several exercises at home because they explore discrete skills in and of themselves with no broad applicability. For this reason,

you might consider assigning the last two exercises—Picture-in-Picture and Videomerge—as homework, or describe them early on as topics that you’ll get to only if time permits.

Another approach might be to exclude some advanced topics, such as controlling effects using keyframes. This is an incredibly powerful and important feature of Adobe Premiere Elements, but it is also a feature that may be difficult for some students to grasp in 5-10 minutes.

Finally, because the Lesson 7 is much shorter and simpler than Lesson 6, you may be able to extend some of the effects-related training into the following class period.

Opening discussion

When most beginning editors hear the word *effects*, they immediately think of Spielberg and *Star Wars*. But some of the most important effects are those that fix errors made during shooting, such as shooting with insufficient lighting, forgetting to white balance the camcorder, or falling victim to strong backlighting. Fortunately, Adobe Premiere Elements has outstanding tools to correct all of these problems.

After applying these curative effects, students will have time to get creative. Adobe Premiere Elements has plenty of artistic effects, and they can really perk up a production.

Using effects

Here’s where you can elaborate on the difference between curative and creative effects. Be sure to touch on all types of effects. Even if you lack the time to describe them all, the students should know that they exist.

Premiere Elements spreads its effects and related tools over multiple panels. These include:

- Fixed effects in the Adjust panel.
- Tools like Time remapping and Pan & Zoom in the tools panel that are applied and then configured in an effect-specific window.
- Video and audio effects in the Effects panel that are customized in the Applied Effects panel.

Review all three types of tools so they know where to find and customize them.

Working with SmartFix

SmartFix is a mode that automatically corrects shaky and poorly exposed video, but relies upon Smart Tag information gathered by the Auto-Analyzer. SmartFix is almost always helpful, so your students should definitely learn how to use it.

Perfecting your clips

The skills discussed in the first section in this category—Applying and resetting fixed effects in the Adjust panel—are essential, and should be covered thoroughly.

Rendering effects is a skill that students may not need to know because the near-real-time preview that is available without rendering provides sufficient quality for most projects and editors. This could be assigned as a “learn at home” section if you’re short on time.

Fixing backlighting video is a very common problem and Premiere Elements Shadow/Highlight effect is a great solution.

Copying effects from one clip to another

Copying effects from one clip to another can be a huge timesaver on many projects.

Working with Time Remapping

Time remapping is an excellent new feature that allows users to apply and customize fast and slow motion, both forwards and backwards. Since many personal and professional projects include slow and fast motion effects, allocate sufficient time to complete this exercise. Another skill covered in this section is how to reframe a clip using Motion controls, which is also very valuable.

Creating a Pan and Zoom Effect

Premiere Elements Pan and Zoom effect lets students produce powerful videos from still images. Budget ten minutes or so to cover this topic in reasonable detail as it is a very valuable function.

Working with keyframes

Adobe Premiere Elements’ keyframe controls are similar to those used by Premiere Pro, which makes them incredibly powerful, but also somewhat hard to learn. Let the students know this up front, and also stress that keyframes are a critical control mechanism for every digital content production program. The skill may be hard to learn, but it has broad applicability—not only in Adobe Premiere Elements, but in most other content creation programs as well.

With this buildup, working through the lessons should be anti-climactic, and students will grasp the concepts quickly. Don’t rush through them, though, because they are challenging concepts to convey and if you (or the students) miss a step, you won’t achieve the desired learning.

Applying FilmLooks

FilmLooks are another new feature in Premiere Elements 11 and are a great way to conform all clips in a project to a certain look. Be sure to at least touch on this new capability during this lesson on effects.

Other Exercises

The next two exercises—Creating a Picture-in-Picture overlay, and Compositing two clips using Videomerge—are both very simple and can be learned at home. As mentioned at the beginning of this section, you should consider allocating these to self-study.

Time permitting

If you have time to allow the students to experiment, point them toward New Blue's Old Film effect, which is a great way to completely change the look and feel of a video. Other very cool effects include the Lighting and Earthquake effects.

Questions

- 1 Describe three places to find effects and tools.
- 2 What function must be run for SmartFix to operate?
- 3 How do you enable/disable the effect preview?
- 4 What is backlighting and what's the best effect to correct it.

Answers

- 1 You can find fixed effects in the Adjust panel, most effect-related tools in the Tools panel and most other effects in the Effects panel (in the Action Bar).
- 2 SmartFix relies upon data supplied by the Auto-Analyzer, and won't operate on clips that haven't been analyzed.
- 3 In the Adjust and Applied Effects views, click the eyeball icon next to the effect.
- 4 Backlighting occurs when a bright light behind the subject causes the camcorder to darken the subject's face. Adobe Premiere Elements' Shadow Highlight tool is a great tool to correct this.

Lesson 7: Working with Transitions

Lesson 7 describes how to add nuance and dimension to movies by placing transitions between clips. Students will apply and preview transitions, customize transition settings, create fade-ins and fade-outs and to render transitions.

Goals for this lesson

The objectives for Lesson 7 are to enable students to apply and configure transitions in Adobe Premiere Elements.

- Your students should understand when and how to use transitions.
- They should be able to open the Transitions panel and to preview transitions.
- Your students should be able to customize transitions.
- Your students should be able to apply the default transition to multiple clips.
- They should understand how to render transitions.

Getting started

This lesson could be short and sweet, if desired, and you should have no trouble working through the individual exercises in a reasonable amount of time. As such, you may wish to devote a portion of your Lesson 7 time to follow-up on any lingering issues from Lesson 6.

Opening discussion

Let's face it; applying transitions is pretty routine. You drag transitions between the two clips and move on to the next edit. As such, the best knowledge you could pass on to the students is when and how to use those transitions.

In this regard, consider starting the class with a discussion of four types of productions:

- A variety show that employs frequent cuts between multiple cameras (such as *The Late Show with David Letterman*)
- A movie (pick one that's considered artsy).
- A children's show (such as *Sesame Street* for the diaper set, or *Phineas and Ferb* or *Jessie* for older children)
- A sports show (such as *ESPN's Monday Night Football*)

Discuss how each show uses transitions and make the following points:

- *You don't need to insert transitions between all clips.* In *The Late Show*, when cutting from one camera to another, you don't need a transition effect (and mention the obvious corollary that a transition isn't necessary between every two clips on the timeline). Make the point that a *cut* is a transition in and of itself, but no effect is applied.
- *Transitions should be used between changes in place and time.* In most movies, transitions are typically used between major scenes to suggest that some change of time or place is occurring. For example, in *Slumdog Millionaire*, an excellent example is when the two boys are pulled from a rolling train, roll into a dust cloud, and then reappear as young teenagers. The transition was necessary because moving from childhood to adolescence would otherwise have appeared disjointed. However, when cutting from camera angle to camera angle within the same scene, no transition effects are necessary. Make the point that most movies have only two types of transitions; dissolves between minor scene changes and fades to black during major scene changes.
- *Transitions should match the tone of the movie.* In a show such as *Sesame Street* or *Jessie*, transitions are frequently used (usually only between scenes, and not within scenes), but they're fun transitions added to match the playful tone of the show. Transitions should always match the tone of the event.
- *Transitions can also be used as branding.* *Monday Night Football* uses branded transitions to jump from disparate scene to another (such as cutting from the scoreboard to an announcer, or jumping from instant replay to live action.) Make the point that all transitions should be "motivated." The motivation is usually to avoid viewer confusion, but sometimes transitions are used to realize a high-concept visual style or to communicate branding.
- *Transitions are hard to compress for streaming.* Also make the point that a transition that looks great on DVD, such as a one second fade to black, may look awful when compressed for streaming, simply because the compression ratio must be set much higher for streaming media.

A rule of thumb is to use one-second transitions for DVD and other high data rate outputs, and half-second transitions in projects intended as streaming media. Remind students that they can change the default duration in the Preferences view (choose Edit > Preferences) but that the changes are applied prospectively, and will not be applied to transitions already located in the Timeline.

Working with transitions in the views

Transitions are applied similarly but look differently depending upon the view. If your students will be working in both views, work through the exercises in both views.

Viewing/customizing transition properties

It's important for students to understand the three placement options for transitions (left clip, between clip, and right clip) and how to access these and other controls in the Transitions Adjustments panel.

Adding a single-sided transition to create a fade-in

Emphasize that this is probably the easiest way to add a fade-in to a clip, but it's also the least customizable, with control over duration only. For superior control over all aspects of the fade-in, the student should use the Opacity controls on the timeline, which are fully keyframeable. You can apply these in the Effects Properties window (using the Fade-in/Fade out icons) or apply them manually in the Timeline.

Applying the default transition to multiple clips

This is a killer time-saving feature that you should definitely cover.

How transitions work – the deep dive

Transitions are easy to apply and customize, but under the hood operation can be confusing, particularly if you get the “Insufficient Media” error message. This section explains when and why this message appears and how to avoid it.

Questions

- 1 What's the best transition duration to use for streaming and why?
- 2 What are the four most highly used transitions in TV and the movies?
- 3 Can you get arrested for making a movie without transitions?

Answers

- 1 Use a half-second transition duration or shorter because it typically reveals fewer compression artifacts than one-second durations.
- 2 Cuts (no transition effect), dissolves, and fade to and from black.
- 3 No, in fact many in the style police encourage this practice.

Lesson 8: Titles and Credits

Lesson 8 details Adobe Premiere Elements' title functionality. Students create original titles and rolling credits for their productions, and use title templates they are installed with the program.

Goals for this lesson

The objectives for Lesson 8 are to teach students how to create titles in Adobe Premiere Elements.

- Your students should understand the differences between full screen and overlay titles, and how to create each title type.
- Students should know how to access and customize the title creation tools for text and design primitives.
- Your students should be able to create and customize rolling titles.
- Students should be able to access, apply, and customize title templates.

Getting started

Most students already understand how to create and modify text, so this lesson is relatively straightforward to teach. The most complicated activity is creating rolling credits. Because this is something most students eventually will want to do, be sure you budget sufficient time to cover the subject thoroughly.

Opening discussion

Titles perform many functions in a video project. Most videos start with an opening title, and end with credits. During the video, titles can alert viewers when the movie changes from one section to the next. They can also convey additional information to the viewer, through subtitles or using thought bubbles.

One great way to demonstrate that titles serve multiple purposes is to browse the title templates, and identify the purpose for each title type, whether *list* (to show agenda or contents), *lower third* (for overlay titles to identify the speaker), *frame* (opening title) or *credits*.

Moving on, discuss how some video producers take a perfunctory approach to titles, treating them as necessary evils. However, using Adobe Premiere Elements' comprehensive text tools and the ability to import graphics or display a title over a frame or video, producers should consider titles a valuable tool for grabbing and maintaining audience attention.

As a final consideration, note that your students should at least consider the visual uniformity between their titles and their DVD or Blu-ray menus. At the very least, these elements should use the same fonts. Producers can create a very

polished, cohesive look by using the same background images, or other similar design elements throughout their presentation. Note that several of the Adobe Premiere Elements titles have accompanying DVD menus that reflect this approach (European Travel, Blue Notes, Birthday).

A couple of additional points should be mentioned early in the lesson. First, producers can insert titles over a clip (overlay titles) or can employ full screen stand-alone titles. They can insert overlay titles over any type of content, whether still image or video. Though most titles produced in this lesson will include only one line of text, producers can insert multiple text strings into a single title.

After you create and insert a title, Adobe Premiere Elements treats it like a still image, so you can drag the title to any length, apply a transition or effect, add motion effects as you would to a still image, or change its opacity.

Creating a simple full screen title

This is an example of creating a full screen title. Work through the basic text tools slowly, and be sure to define kerning and leading.

Call attention to the title-safe and action-safe margins sidebar. Emphasize that you don't need to worry about these margins if the video content (such as streaming video) will be viewed only on a computer. Computer monitors don't have the over-scan issues that the action- and title-safe margins address.

Adding an image to your title files

Observe that you can import a full screen background image as well as a smaller image. Although you could accomplish a similar effect by overlaying a title over an image on a lower timeline track, it's simpler to import an image because if you move the title at some point, the image will move with it.

Animate a still title

When teaching the material in this sidebar, make the point that these effects are separate from the motion effects that you can apply to any still image on the timeline.

Superimposing a title over video clips

Whenever you superimpose a title over a video clip, the most important consideration is legible text, especially when the background video is moving and changing in color and brightness. To maintain design consistency, you should identify a single visual design that works irrespective of the background video.

Design strategies include adding a border or background shadow to the title text, or, as in the exercise, adding a translucent box or other design primitive. Note that these design primitives allow producers to get very creative with titles.

Using graphics

Premiere Elements includes multiple graphics that you can add to your projects, including speech bubbles, which can be tons of fun. This lesson details where to find these effects and how to apply and use them.

Creating a rolling credit

As mentioned earlier, rolling credits can be complicated to produce. Consider using the rolling credit from the supplied project, and allowing students to experiment with options such as Start off Screen, and Pre-roll, Ease-in and Postroll to produce different results.

Emphasize that you control the speed of the rolling credits by setting title duration. Stretch the duration to make the title move slower, reduce duration to make the credits roll faster.

Questions

- 1 Where are the title templates found?
- 2 What's the primary consideration when creating an overlay title?

Answers

- 1 In the Titles & Text panel in the Action Bar.
- 2 The primary consideration is ensuring text legibility. You can do this by applying an outline or shadows to the text itself, or adding a translucent design primitive beneath the text.

Lesson 9: Working with Sound

Lesson 9 examines multiple audio-related features, including a real time narration tool; the ability to create, add, and modify soundtracks; and a mixer that controls the volume levels within clips. To become familiar with these features, students create a background music track, adjust the volume of an audio clip, add sound effects, add a narration clip, and mix a final audio track.

Goals for this lesson

The objectives for Lesson 9 are to enable students to create, mix, and apply effects to audio tracks.

- Your students should understand SmartSound; how to access the libraries on their discs and online; and how to create custom length, theme-specific background music for their productions.
- Your students should understand how to use Smart Mix to automatically mix the audio tracks in the project.
- They should be able to adjust volume with the audio mixer, using rubber band controls on the timeline, and using Adobe Premiere Elements' gain controls, which now can be applied to multiple clips simultaneously.
- Your students should understand how to create narration tracks.
- They should be capable of applying and customizing effects to audio files.

Getting started

This lesson has two logistical issues to consider in advance. First, the students will need to hear audio tracks much more clearly for sounds mixing than for video editing. Whereas speakers may have worked well during video editing, headphones might be preferable to use for this lesson. If you don't already have headphones available, you should encourage students to bring their own, even if they're only iPod ear-buds.

The second issue relates to narration. If each computer in the class doesn't have a microphone, you should consider asking each student to buy an inexpensive microphone for her own use, which can cost under \$20. Note, however, that configuring individual computers to recognize and use a microphone can be time consuming. As an alternative, consider demonstrating how to create a narration track, and using the same narration track for all editing activities.

Opening discussion

Begin the class with a discussion of the importance and impact of audio.

In all productions, audio must be noise free and properly mixed. As when applying curative effects in Lesson 6, the audio techniques taught in this lesson will improve the quality of audio tracks and the final audio mix.

- In business productions, background music provides a general polish.
- In movies, background music can help set the tone, and reinforce the emotions in scenes.
- In home movies, background music or narration can provide the continuity that the typically disparate scenes lack. Play the completed movie that comes with this chapter without sound to make this point. Note that TV shows and movies have storylines and dialog that carry the viewer from start to finish, but most home movies don't. A strong audio track can smooth over the lack of continuity in home movies.

Background music, in particular, is a home producer's best friend. An acceptable home movie without background music is just OK. An acceptable home movie with great background music can be a great movie.

Creating background music with SmartSound

SmartSound is ideal for business presentations that need thematic background music (OK, elevator music) that most people don't have in their personal music collections. In addition, it's also lots of fun for movies in which thematically appropriate music adds a nice atmosphere.

Students should understand that a modest number of SmartSound tracks install with Adobe Premiere Elements, and that the interface provides access to purchase songs from SmartSound's much more extensive online collection. As an adjunct to the exercises, consider encouraging the students to search for music for their own home projects to familiarize themselves with the search tools and available tracks.

Adding narration

This exercise covers the mechanical aspect of creating a narration track, but not the artistic aspect. In most instances, for best results, students should prepare a script, read it several times, and print it in short sections in large fonts. Scripts should be written to suggest the way people talk, rather than the way they write.

Also discuss the environmental aspects of recording a high-quality narration, meaning access to a quiet room with no air conditioning/heating noise. Also identify what a *pop filter* is and why students should consider getting one for recording narration.

About waveforms

This lesson describes what waveforms are and how to diagnose audio problems using a waveform. It's a great theoretical section that really sets up some of the volume adjustments described later in the lesson.

Adjusting audio volume

Be sure that students grasp the difference between adjusting volume in the volume graph and adjusting the volume using the gain controls. To make the distinction, you can detail the difference between normalization and manual volume controls. Consider covering these fundamentals before actually describing how the controls work.

One of the key differences between the volume graph and the gain controls is that you can adjust the gain of multiple clips simultaneously, which is a very convenient feature.

Adjusting Project Volume with Smart Mix

A totally cool feature and fun exercise. The exercise makes the point that you might have to perform some adjustments manually after applying SmartMix, and you should make that point as well.

Raising and lowering volume with keyframes

Inserting keyframes is much more intuitive and contextual in the timeline than in the Properties pane. Consider teaching this skill entirely in the Timeline view.

Working with the audio mixer

Emphasize that the audio mixer is a useful tool, but it usually only creates a “first draft” of the final audio levels. In most instances, students will need to fine-tune the settings produced by the audio mixer using rubber band controls and keyframes.

Edit to the Beat of Your Favorite Song

A very fun and useful feature for those creating slide shows from digital pictures. Worth demonstrating if your class includes a lot of wannabe Ken Burns (who produces movies with extensive use of still pictures with pan and zoom effects).

Working with sound effects

This lesson is ancillary to the other content in the lesson. Consider describing the difference between normalization and compression and then assigning this for additional home study.

Questions

- 1 What are the pros and cons of adjusting volume via gain controls and the volume graph?
- 2 In what situations is audio normalization hard to apply?
- 3 What's the difference between normalization and manual volume adjustment and when should you use each.

Answers

- 1 When working with the gain control, you can adjust multiple clips simultaneously, and all adjustments reflect in the waveform, so you can see the affect of your adjustments. However, you can't apply key frames to your adjustments, so they're applied universally to the clip. When working with the volume graph, you can only edit a single clip at a time, and adjustments don't reflect in the waveform. However, you can apply key frames to your adjustments, so you can control volume adjustments within a clip.
- 2 Normalization works poorly in clips that have loud and soft regions, when the obvious objective is to raise the volume in the quieter sections. Because normalization is limited by the loudest sounds, normalization often does little to boost the volume of the quieter sounds. One alternative is to split the clip into high and low volume levels, and normalize the lower regions independently. Or, use rubber band controls to select specific areas of the audio track and adjust their volume manually, at the risk of introducing distortion.
- 3 Normalization boosts volume of the entire audio track to the maximum decibel level that doesn't distort the loudest regions. It's best used when the audio levels in the track are relatively consistent (as narration tracks). You can adjust volume manually using rubber band controls or keyframes, which is a preferable option when an audio track includes widely varying volume levels. Manual adjustments can introduce distortion, however, so you should be careful when performing manual volume adjustments.

Lesson 10: Creating Menus

Lesson 10 is aimed at students creating a Blu-ray or other optical disc from their projects. Students will add menu markers to videos; and learn how to create, customize and preview menus. Then, they'll create a WebDVD, and burn the project to a DVD or Blu-ray disc. Because Adobe Premiere Elements can record a disc image to a hard drive (in addition to writing the content directly to a disc), your students need not have a DVD or Blu-ray recorder to perform these exercises.

Goals for this lesson

The objectives for Lesson 10 are to enable students to burn DVD and Blu-ray discs from an Adobe Premiere Elements project.

- Your students should understand the system requirements for creating and playing DVD and Blu-ray discs.
- Your students should understand how an AVCHD disc differs from a Blu-ray disc and why and when it's useful.
- They should understand and be able to add menu markers to their movies.
- Your student should know what an auto-play disc is, and how to create one.
- Student should learn the techniques of creating a menu template, including inserting background video or images, adding background audio, and animating menu buttons.
- Your student be able to preview their discs, and record the project to WebDVD or traditional DVD or Blu-ray disc.

Getting started

This is a long lesson, but critical for students who want to burn DVDs containing their content, or upload a DVD-like experience to the web. Depending upon the technical level of the students, some may be totally unfamiliar with the technical requirements of producing DVDs, so you should introduce these issues first. You may also have to spend significant time explaining menu markers and other disc-development similar concepts.

Fortunately, some of the later sections are comparatively simple and can be worked through with little additional explanation. Finally, if the students have DVD or Blu-ray burners and the necessary media, you're good to go at the disc-making stage. Otherwise, fall back to plan B, which is to save a disc image on the student hard drives. This process is very similar to burning a DVD, the primary difference being that the hard drive is chosen as the destination medium in the last dialog.

Opening Discussion

If your students are not familiar with DVD production, start out with a brief DVD primer. At a highest level, DVDs have two components, menus and content. The two processes of creating a DVD are adding menu markers to the content so viewers have input points, and building a menu. Adobe Premiere Elements does all the linking and encoding.

Blu-ray production is identical to DVD production, except that you output to a Blu-ray recorder rather than a DVD recorder. Introduce the concept of a WebDVD, where students can create and upload a project that will work like a DVD on the web, including clickable menus for navigation and video playback. Then discuss AVCHD discs, which allow you to burn HD content onto a standard DVD recorder and DVD media.

Then, list the technical requirements for producing a DVD/Blu-ray disc.

To create and play a DVD, the student will need:

- A DVD (or Blu-ray) recorder (most Blu-ray drives are backwards compatible with DVD)
- A blank recordable (DVD+R/DVD-R) or rewriteable (DVD+RW/DVD-RW) disc
- A DVD player or Blu-ray disc player. You may wish to note that commercially manufactured DVDs will play on virtually all DVD players, but recordable DVDs will fail on between 5-10 percent of DVD players.

Observe that a single-layer DVD can store about 4.7 GB of data, and a dual-layer disc can store about 8.4 GB, sufficient for 90 minutes or 180 minutes of high-quality video. To include more content on the disc, you'll have to increase the video compression which may reduce audiovisual quality.

To create and play Blu-ray disc, the student will need:

- A Blu-ray recorder
- Blank Blu-ray media - either BD-R, which is write-once media, or BD-RE, which is rewriteable.
- A Blu-ray player. Note that compatibility problems exist Blu-ray players and Blu-ray recordable discs, but they're not as well documented as the DVD incompatibilities.

A single-layer Blu-ray disc can store about 25 GB of data, enough for at least two hours of HD video at very high quality. While dual-layer, 50 GB Blu-ray discs exist, Adobe Premiere Elements records single-layer Blu-ray discs only.

To create and play an AVCHD disc, the student will need:

- A DVD (or Blu-ray) recorder (most Blu-ray drives are backwards compatible with DVD)
- A blank recordable (DVD+R/DVD-R) or rewriteable (DVD+RW/DVD-RW) disc
- A Blu-ray player.

When discussing compatibility issues, emphasize these have nothing to do with Adobe Premiere Elements. Rather, incompatibilities are often media related, or caused because many DVD/Blu-ray players were released before recordable technology existed and pre-dated compatibility testing.

One tip is to use recordable discs, which are usually more compatible than rewriteable or erasable media. Another strategy is to avoid dual-layer media, which can be less compatible than single-layer discs.

Also you'll want to manage expectations on the disc features that Adobe Premiere Elements can generate. Specifically, while discs created with the application share many features with commercially-developed discs--such as chapter points, and audio and video menus--the navigational features available in Premiere Elements are very structured, and the program lacks the support for subtitles or multiple languages, as do virtually all other consumer-oriented DVD authoring programs.

Make the point that you can make Blu-ray, DVDs and AVCHD discs from the same project; it just depends upon the disc output that you select and the type of recorder and recordable disc. Whichever you choose, Adobe Premiere Elements will format the video and record the disc appropriately.

Understanding DVDs, Blu-ray and AVCHD discs

This is a good opportunity to make sure that students know the difference between DVD and Blu-ray discs and understand the myriad of variants (+R/-R/+RW/-RW/BD-R/BD-RE).

Manually adding Scene Markers

Scene Markers are critical to controlling the viewer's access to content. Students may be familiar with the term "chapter points" which are used elsewhere. Note that Scene Markers allow Adobe Premiere Elements to generate Scene Selection menus just like commercial DVDs.

Few students will want to create an auto-play disc or automatically generate Scene Markers, which are discussed in next two sections. Consider touching on these topics but, in general, working through these exercises probably wouldn't be a good use of classroom time.

Creating a disc with menus

This section reviews the types of menus available and how Adobe Premiere Elements always displays the relevant commands for each. This section could be skipped if time is short.

Modifying scene marker buttons

This is an important and straightforward exercise. Observe that button labels should only be one or two words in length, otherwise they typically won't fit within the button shape (and remain legible on a standard TV screen.)

Working with submenus

Consider covering the “Three types of menu markers” sidebar before diving into these materials. That way, the students will learn what the links do before they learn how to apply them.

Customizing menus with video, still images, and audio

This and the related exercises in this lesson are critical territory because most students will want to customize their menu templates. Make the point that if the student wants full screen video in the menu background, they need to choose a menu template without a drop zone.

Also note that while a producer can perform DVD menu customization, doesn't mean that she should. In particular, moving thumbnails take a long time to render and look pretty funky, and since video and audio menus have a maximum duration of 30 seconds, after which they repeat, looping thumbnails can be irritating in use.

Creating WebDVDs

Discuss that you can host WebDVDs either on your own site or on Photoshop.com. Then walk through the straightforward process of creating a WebDVD.

Burning DVDs, Blu-ray Discs, and AVCHD Discs

Choose a teaching strategy that suits whether recorders will or will not be available in your classroom.

Questions

- 1 How should students address incompatibilities between writable and rewritable discs and some DVD and Blu-ray players?
- 2 How much video content can a DVD contain while retaining very good audiovisual quality?
- 3 What's the maximum duration of video menus and what happens after then?
- 4 What's a webDVD?
- 5 What is an AVCHD disc?

Answers

- 1 They should inform their viewers that incompatibilities are an unfortunate fact of life. Since some of these problems are media related, once they find a media brand that works for them, they should also stick with it. Students should avoid rewriteable and dual-layer media.
- 2 Placing more than 90 minutes of content on a single-layer disc can require data compression levels that will degrade video quality.
- 3 The maximum duration is 30 seconds. After that, the video starts over and replays endlessly, sometimes to irritating effect.
- 4 A webDVD creates a set of files that a user can upload to a web site for playback via Flash-enabled computers using the same menu controls available on a DVD or Blu-ray disc.
- 5 An AVCHD disc is a standard DVD recordable disc containing HD content that can be played on Blu-ray players. AVCHD presentations can also be recorded onto Flash drives and other media for playback on a range of devices.

Lesson 11: Sharing Movies

Lesson 11 explores how students can share videos with friends, family and associates, including uploading videos to YouTube, exporting a video file for viewing from a hard disk-based or mobile device, and how to record video to DV/HDV tape.

Goals for this lesson

The objectives for this Lesson 11 are to familiarize students with their options for sharing movies produced in Adobe Premiere Elements, aside from the optical disk platforms discussed in Lesson 10.

- Your students should be able to upload a video file to YouTube.
- They should be capable of exporting a file for viewing on a hard drive-based device.
- Your student should learn how to create a file for uploading to an iPad or other mobile device.

Getting started

Adobe Premiere Elements supports multiple ways to share videos, and the most desirable method will differ from student to student (and project to project.) Some students prefer using YouTube, some want to email to friends or post to a web site, others want to upload videos to their iPods or archive to tape. None of these are conceptually difficult, but you'll have to budget your time carefully to make sure that you explain them all.

The common concern in all these methods is encoding time, which can be lengthy on older computers. You may get the best results (and save a lot of classroom time) if you take the students to the brink of each sharing method, but never click the Save button (or cancel the encoding process after you do).

Opening discussion

Ask the students to open their Publish+Share panels and then identify and briefly discuss the output options one by one. Then, to get the students involved, ask them which option is most important to them, and perhaps ask students interested in a particular technique to lead a discussion on that output option..

Uploading to YouTube

Premiere Elements makes it extremely simple to upload files to YouTube, with multiple presets for different resolutions and aspect ratios.

Sharing on your personal computer

First, review the Choosing output formats sidebar to familiarize students with the available formats. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each format as described in the sidebar, and ask the students which formats they plan to use. If QuickTime doesn't predominate, consider changing the exercise to the most popular format.

Be sure to explain that FLV is the most popular format on the web (for Flash players), but it requires a special desktop player for playback outside of a browser environment. Most users still don't have such a player, which is why it makes little sense to email files in this format to friends.

Ask if any students will be publishing their files to a web site other than YouTube, Facebook or Photoshop.com. Dig into details like which site, and research that site's encoding and uploading requirements, so all class members can learn which formats and encoding strategies should be used.

Explain that when students create files for other video distribution websites such as Vimeo or blip.tv, they should check the site for file uploading requirements. If the upload rules aren't followed, the videos may look suboptimal or may not be accepted.

Exporting to mobile phones and players

Ask which devices students will be using. If Apple devices don't dominate (unlikely), work through the exercise using the most popular device.

Exporting a frame of video as a still image

This is an important exercise because still frames are useful in both titles and DVD menus. Suggest that exported frames are often the best starting point for a DVD menu.

Questions

- 1 When are FLV-format video files appropriate, and when should you avoid them?
- 2 How do you know what format to encode to when creating a file for a user-generated content website?

Answers

- 1 FLV files are appropriate when creating a file to upload to a website for playback on a Flash-compatible browser. However, you should avoid using FLV file for desktop playback unless you know that the person you're sending the file to has an FLV player.
- 2 Most sites list their specifications and requirements in a FAQ or similar document.

Lesson 13: Working with Adobe Photoshop Elements

Lesson 13 details how to use Adobe Photoshop Elements and Adobe Premiere Elements in concert to seamlessly combine digital photography and video editing. To complete these exercises, students must have Adobe Photoshop Elements installed on their computers.

Goals for this lesson

The objectives for Lesson 13 are to familiarize students with methods for combining the use of Adobe Premiere Elements and Photoshop Elements.

- Your students should know how to use the Edit Videos command in Elements Organizer to create a slide show in Adobe Premiere Elements, and how to paste images into Adobe Premiere Elements.
- Your students should be able to create a Photoshop file optimized for video, use the file in Adobe Premiere Elements and then return to Adobe Photoshop for subsequent editing or touch up.

Getting started

Intuitively, we know that most videographers also shoot still images, even if the reverse isn't true. These facts suggest that most Adobe Premiere Elements users will be interested in learning how to improve their productions with Photoshop Elements. Of course, this doesn't mean that teaching these techniques fits your class curriculum. This is especially true if your class computers don't have Photoshop Elements installed, a necessity for completing these exercises.

However, the concepts in this lesson are relatively simple to grasp, and could be covered in a ten minute fly-by, if necessary. On the other hand, the exercises in this chapter could fruitfully consume a full 45-60 minute class period. You decide.

The one scary prospect to consider is that a basic familiarity with Photoshop Elements is assumed. If you're starting from ground zero with novice users, you could lose them very quickly. Keep this thought in mind when deciding how to approach this subject in your class.

Opening discussion

Consider opening the discussion with a show of hands of those students who have Photoshop Elements installed on their home or office computers. Then ask how many students also shoot still images for standalone use or for integration to their video productions.

Then discuss the high level benefits of using the two programs together. Most significant is the ability to edit still images in Photoshop Elements for use in Premiere Elements projects.

Getting started

This is an efficient way to gather images that you've previously catalogued for use in an Adobe Premiere Elements project.

Creating a new Adobe Photoshop file optimized for video

Introduce this discussion by identifying a number of purposes that optimized still images can serve in a video project, such as titles, menu backgrounds, and text overlays. Note that Adobe Premiere Elements' title tool is very capable, but Photoshop Elements adds an additional level of feature sophistication. In essence, this lesson teaches students how to use Photoshop Elements as a high-powered titling utility for Adobe Premiere Elements.

These exercises are conceptually simple but detailed, so go through them slowly and make sure that your students keep up.

Question

- What is the key benefit of using Adobe Photoshop Elements along with Adobe Premiere Elements?

Answer

- Adobe Photoshop Elements includes many additional still image editing functions and effects. Using the two programs together allows Adobe Premiere Elements video producers to efficiently access these functions in their productions.