Overview:

This lesson is focused on the "how to" of digital movie making. Classes view and critique digital stories archived by other Alaskan students, then work together to make, edit, and present a video to peers.

NOTE: The STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET: "Using a Flip™ Camera: Movie-Making Help" requires a color copier. If no color copier is available, consider an alternative presentation method, such as displaying the information using a multimedia projector.

Objectives:

The student will:

- develop a 30-45 second introduction that includes names, grade-level, the community name, and the location of the community within the state;
- upload the video file from the camera to the computer and modify if necessary by putting it into a slide show with text or into a movie; and
- present the introduction to the class then save for future use.

Targeted Alaska Grade Level Expectations:

None noted.

Whole Picture:

Preservation of history and culture is rapidly changing in modern times. The use of technology is a fun and engaging way to help students learn the skill to capture culture and oral history.

Vocabulary:

archive – a repository for stored memories or information

digital – relating to or being a device that can generate, record, process, receive, transmit, or display information that is represented in discrete numerical form

edit – to prepare for publication; to assemble the components of a film, soundtrack or other piece of media by cutting and splicing

Materials:

- Digital video camera, such as a Flip™ camera
- Computer with video editing software (such as *iMovie®*)
- Internet
- Storage for electronic files (images and/or video)
- STUDENT WORKSHEET: "Introductions, Please!"
- STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET: "Using a Flip™ Camera: Movie-Making Help"

Activity Preparation:

1. Every year the Alaska Society for Technology in Education holds a contest for students called iDidaMovie. Preview the website (https://www.aste.org/ididacontest-4/) and choose two or three videos to share with the class to demonstrate ideas and editing techniques. For example, watch 2007 winner "Alaska Mother Goose," 2006 winner "Dog Mushing," and 2005 winner "Things That Drive Teachers Crazy."

2. Consider visiting a free MP3 download music site, such as www.mp3.com, to access free music options for students to use when creating and editing.

3. Familiarize yourself with the digital equipment that will be used by students. (See STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET: "Using a Flip™ Camera: Movie-Making Help.") Consider making a model video for students to view.

4. Develop a method of storing and organizing student video clips.

Activity Procedure:

1. Explain students will develop a script to introduce themselves and their community on camera. The introduction should be no more than 30 to 45 seconds long and should include:
   a. Student names and grade levels
   b. The name of the community
   c. The location of the community within the state of Alaska (Consider allowing access to a wall map for this purpose.)
   d. Any other helpful information that will fit into the timeframe (Consider something that sets the community apart from others; something students are proud of, etc.)

2. Divide students into pairs or small groups. Hand out STUDENT WORKSHEET: "Introductions, Please!" Allow students time to plan their introduction, then to practice.

3. Distribute a video camera to each pair or group. Explain how to use the equipment. (See INFORMATION SHEET: "Using a Flip™ Camera: Movie-Making Help."

4. Allow time for filming. Students may want to film in front of a school sign, emblem, trophy case or other interesting setting. Filming should take five to 10 minutes.

5. Ask students to upload their files from the camera to a computer. Once the files are uploaded to the computer, students should immediately rename the files to match the date and topic in the clip. This will save time and difficulty later. See INFORMATION SHEET: "Using a Flip™ Camera: Movie-Making Help" for instructions on how to download and rename files.

   NOTE: Consider watching tutorials as a class on how to download files then edit. Many are available on the Internet. Using a multimedia projector, edit the clip and make an introduction as a class to show students how to proceed.

6. Allow students time to modify and edit clips as necessary. Students should prepare a 30 to 45-second introduction to share with the class.

7. Ask students to present the introduction to peers. Save introductions for use in future projects that use digital video.

Extension Ideas:

1. Students completing a UNITE US Stewardship Project can use the introduction in a final project.

2. Ask students to create a full video and enter it into the iDidaMovie contest. (https://www.aste.org/ididacontest-4/)

Recommendations:

1. Consider the length of the videos needed for any final projects. Encourage students to film short segments. It is recommended final videos not exceed five minutes in length.

2. Remind students to be conscious of the angle and movement of the camera. Encourage them to practice, view their clips and retake them if needed. (The camera holds two hours of video and clips can be deleted.)

3. iMovie is a program (on Mac computers) commonly used to edit videos. There are short tutorials available if you or your students are unfamiliar with the program. Watch the tutorials together as a class and discuss the possibilities. Make a video together to practice if time permits.

4. Devise a strategy for naming and organizing student video files before you begin. Ensure this is clearly communicated to students. Keep in mind that Flip™ cameras will automatically assign a file name to each clip, such as VID001, VID002, etc. Each camera uses the same system, so different cameras use the same file names. This causes frustration when searching for a clip and it confuses the software programs drawing information from the computer. Please rename the clips!

5. Consider devising a way to archive the videos at your school for future years and historical perspective.

Answers:

Answers will vary.

Flip cameras are very user friendly. They are simply "point and shoot." The User Guide included with the camera will provide guidance for basic use.

Here is a quick overview of basic camera functions:

The **Power Button** is found on the side.

Red lights appear on the front of the camera when it is **recording**.

Flip™ Camera Help:

Flip Support PDF can be found linked with this lesson on the GI Education Outreach website. This camera device has since been discontinued by the maker, but you can find used cameras online. A smartphone or tablet with video capability will also work just fine.
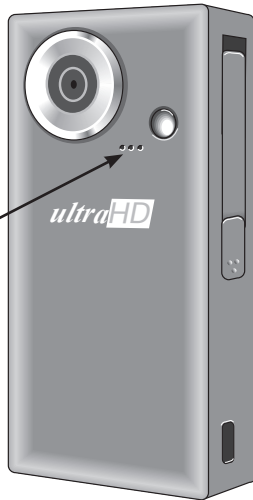
The **USB port** is folded to store and flips outward to plug into the computer.

The **screen** shows what is in the viewfinder. It is also the playback screen. It also shows the amount of time left for filming.

Play Button: Press to play and pause playback.

Delete Button: Press to delete; press and hold to lock/unlock delete button.

Record Button (center red): Press to start and stop recording.

Up/Down Buttons: While recording, press and hold to zoom in/out; during playback, press and hold to turn the volume up or down.

Left/Right Buttons: While paused, press to skip to previous/next video; during playback, press and hold to rewind/fast forward.

USING A FLIP™ CAMERA:
MOVIE-MAKING HELP

This information sheet was prepared using *iMovie '09*. If you have a different version, many elements may be different. You are encouraged to explore the many available tutorials on the Internet.
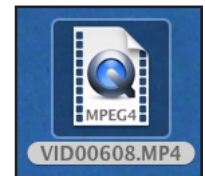
Downloading

To move the video files from the camera to the computer, plug the USB port into the computer and wait for it to recognize the camera port.
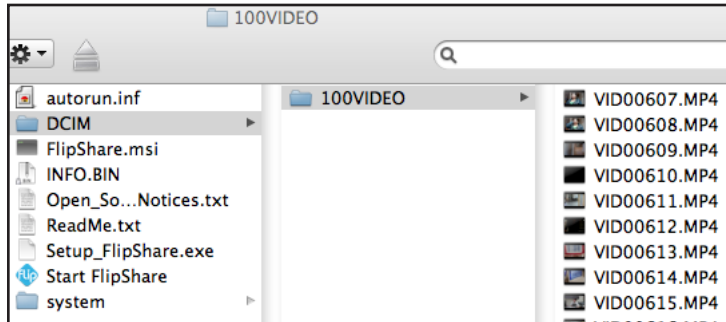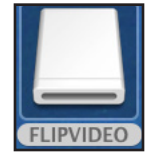
Open the camera's USB drive. From the list of files, open the DCIM folder, then the 100VIDEO folder. You will see a list of clips.

Drag the file (or files) you want to your desktop. Transfer will take a few seconds, then you will see the icon(s). Rename using the date of the clip(s) and important key words. Store the renamed files in a folder for easy retrieval.

Importing Clips

Once you have downloaded the video clips from the camera and renamed the clips, you are ready to import them to iMovie.

To start, open iMovie. From the dropdown menu select File → Import → Movies. You will be prompted to select the files you would like to download. Depending on the number and length of the files, downloading can take several minutes.

Once the clips have downloaded, you will be able to see them in windows. You are ready to begin creating a movie.
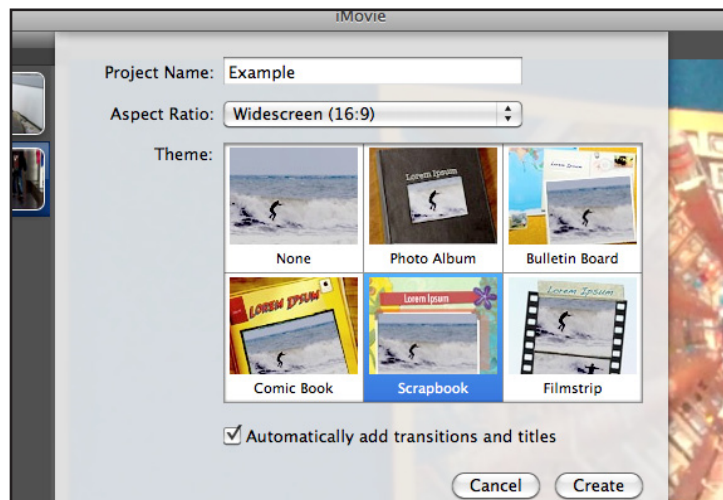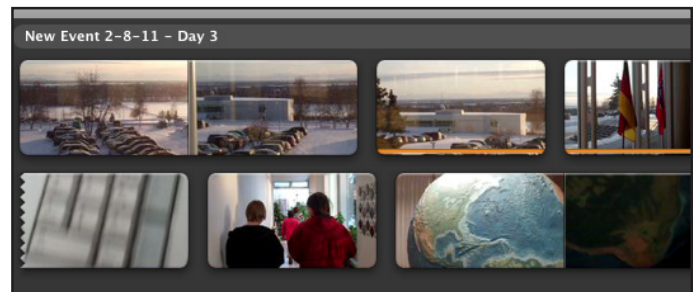
Start Your Project

In the menu bar click File then choose New Project from the drop down menu. You can then choose a theme for formatting (as seen below) and name your project. Click Create to begin.
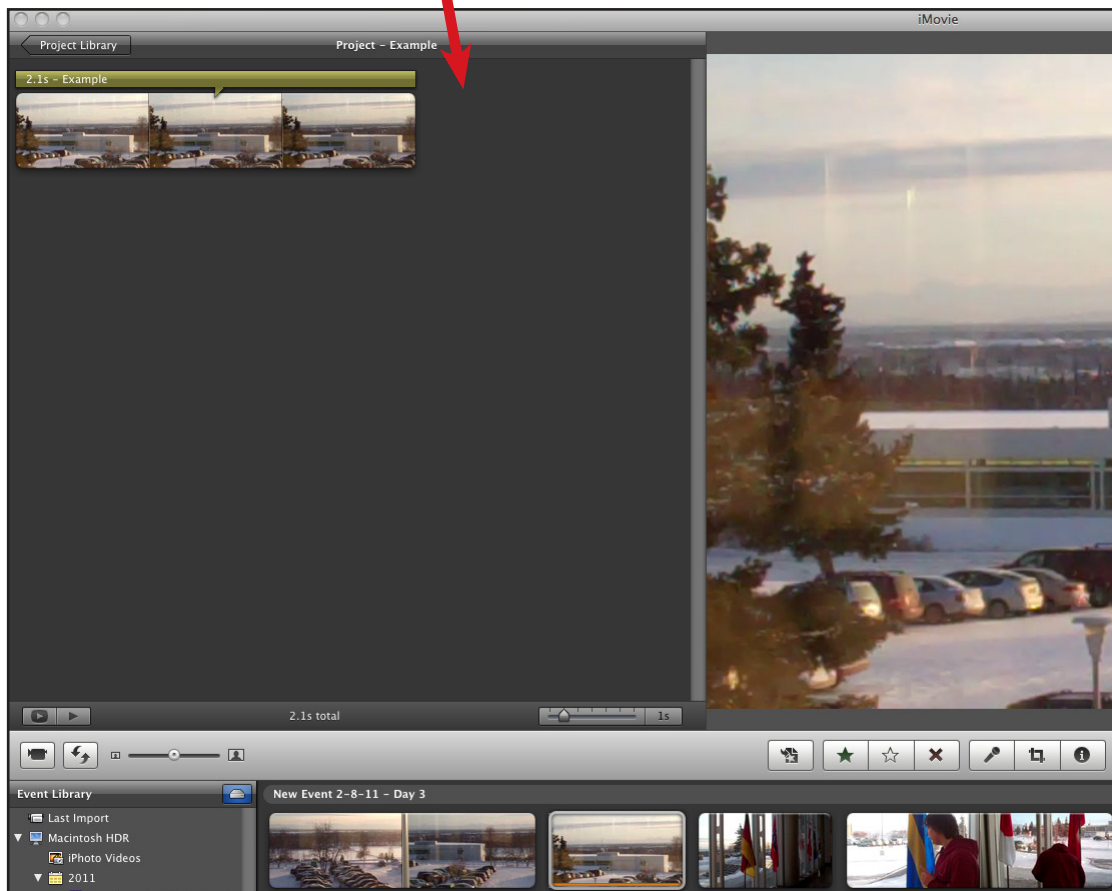
USING A FLIP™ CAMERA: MOVIE-MAKING HELP

Once you click **Create** a work area will appear. This is where you will drag clips and design elements.

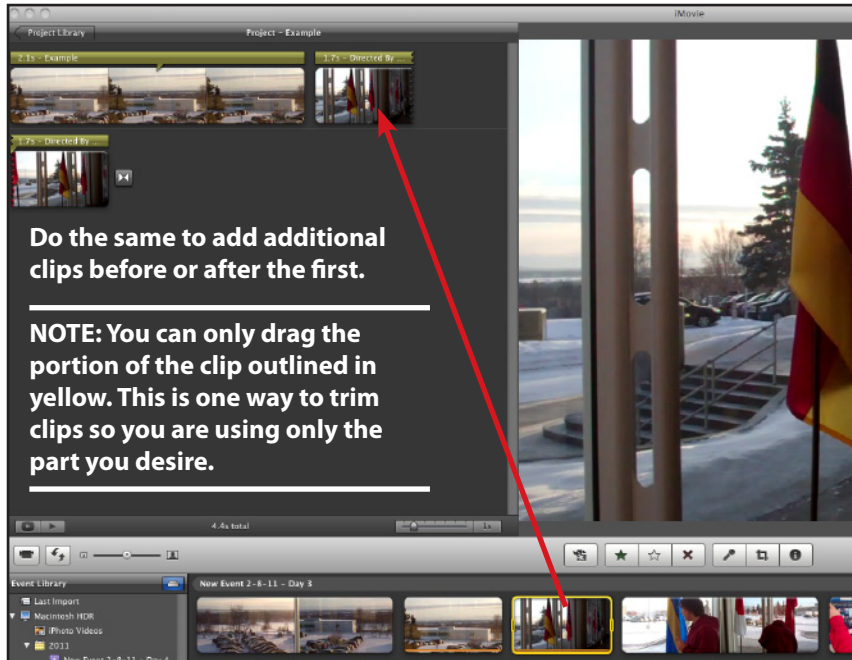Your project work area may look similar to the one shown at right.
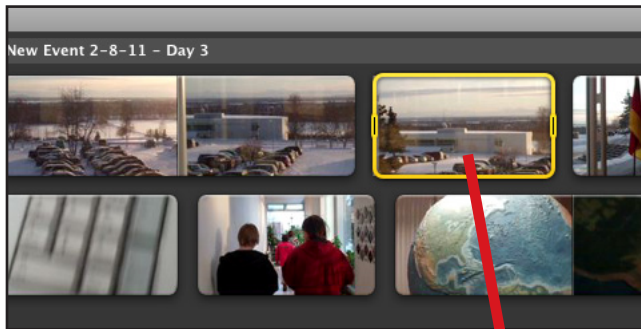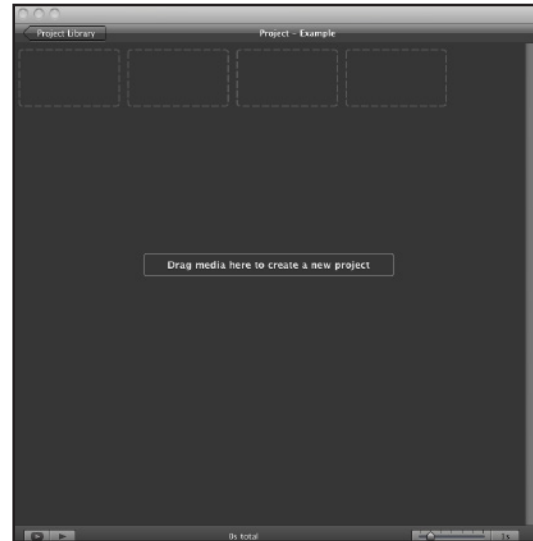
Click on the clip you want to work with then drag it to the work area.

Do the same to add additional clips before or after the first.

NOTE: You can only drag the portion of the clip outlined in yellow. This is one way to trim clips so you are using only the part you desire.

Helpful Hints:

Press [spacebar] to review clips, play your movie and check editing choices.

The Edit dropdown menu has an "undo" option.

Design Elements: Adding transitions, text and music is easy. It is done by the drag and drop method.

Transition elements make moving from one clip to another look seamless. Click on the *transition icon* to view your choices, then drag your choice and drop it between clips.
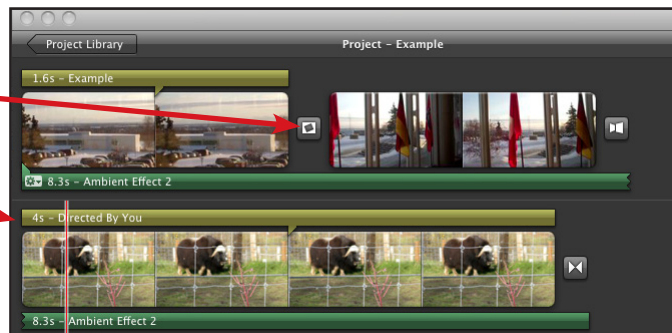

Text elements can be added to any clip. Click the *text icon* to view your choices, then drag and drop your text style choice to where you want the text to start. You can move the start and end of the text by pulling the bar.
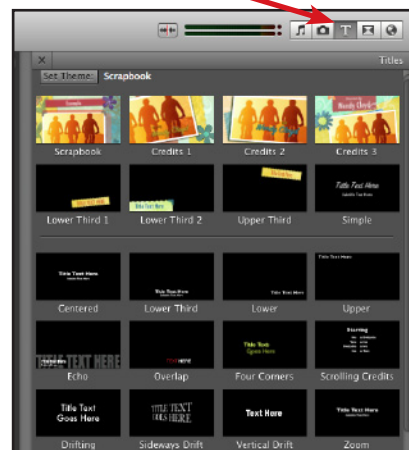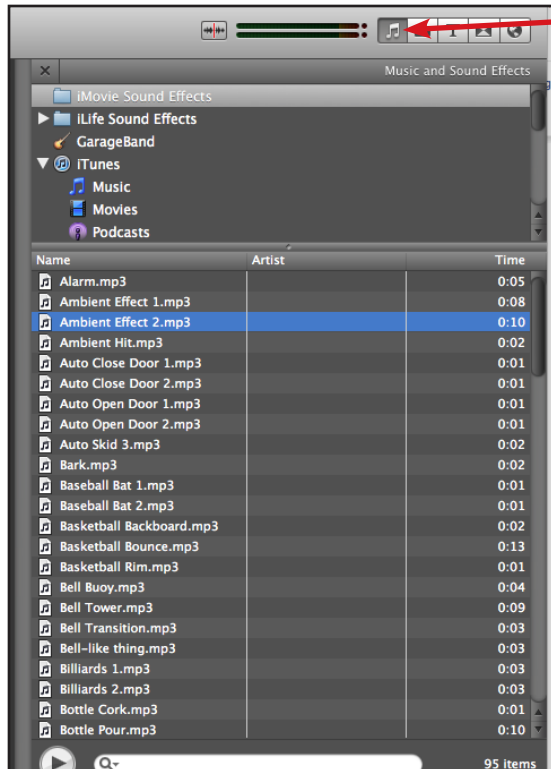

Here you see transitions placed between the clips and text in the bars along the top of the clip.

The bar under the clip is a sound file.

Adding Sound Files

At left you can see available sound effects. Drag the file to the place in your movie you want sound to occur. You can move it forward or backward at any time. Pull the end to extend it to where you want it. Below you see the sound clip extends from start to finish.

NOTE: To add music you must have music files on your computer. Consider visiting a free MP3 download music site, such as www.mp3.com, to access free music options for students to use when creating and editing.
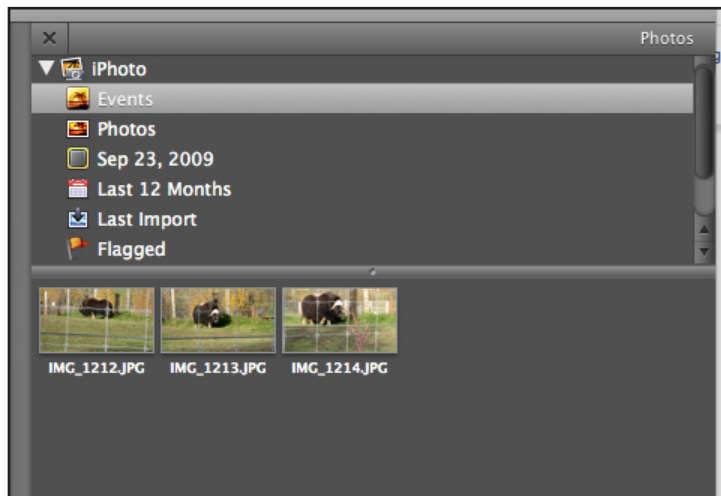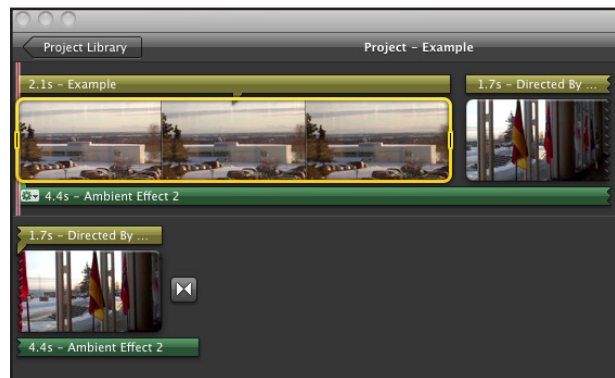

Adding Still Pictures

Add still pictures to your movie by importing them from iPhoto. Drag and drop the photos between clips. Add transitions and text.

When you are satisfied with your movie and ready to share it, go to the menu bar and click on Share, then choose Export Movie. You can then save your movie to your desktop or wherever you wish. This form will not alow any further edits, however iMovie will still hold your project in case further changes are needed.
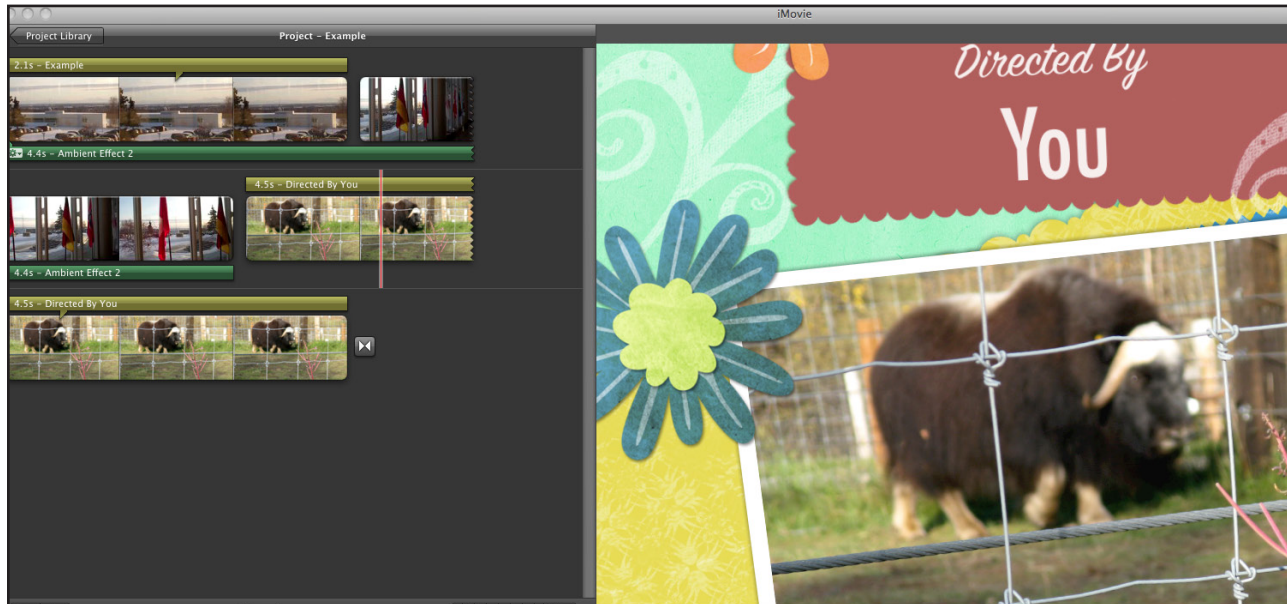
Editing Software Help:

Apple iMovie (http://www.apple.com/support/imovie/): Visit Apple iMovie for tutorials and tips.

Enter "iMovie tutorial" into an Internet search engine and you will find many helpful "how to" videos that teach how to edit in iMovie. There are different versions of iMovie, so note which version is installed on you computer and find an appropriate tutorial.

Microsoft Movie Maker (http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/moviemaker/default.mspx): PC users will need to investigate programs like Microsoft Movie Maker.

UNITE US

NAME: _____
INTRODUCTIONS, PLEASE!

Directions: Use the worksheet below to plan a 30 to 45-second video introduction that can be used with future class projects.

Important Details

Name, age and grade level of each person in the group:

Name	Age	Grade

Date filming is taking place: _____

The name of the community where you are filming: _____

The location of the community within the state of Alaska: (Consider showing the location on a map.)

_____

Get Creative

List other helpful information that will make your movie fun and set it apart from others. Consider talking about something that sets the community apart, such as something you are proud of about your community or your school.

_____

_____

_____

Helpful Hints

- Your introduction does not have to be filmed in one continuous section. Small clips can be edited together to form a longer video for your final project.

- Don't worry about "messing up." You can start over again without stopping the film. Mistakes can be cut.

- Be careful not to move too quickly or shake too much while filming. It will make it hard to watch. Also, don't turn the camera sideways unless your editing skills can turn it upright in the editing program.

- Short clips that get right to the point are far better than long clips that drag on and on.

Plan It Out

Now that you have gathered some information, it's time to decide on some other details, such as:

Where do you want to do the filming? _____

How are you going to divide filming responsibility? _____

_____

Do you need an extra person to film so the entire group can be in any of the shots? _____

If so, who can you ask? _____

Who is going to say what? _____

_____

_____

Script it Out

Use the space below to write out a script for your part(s).

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____