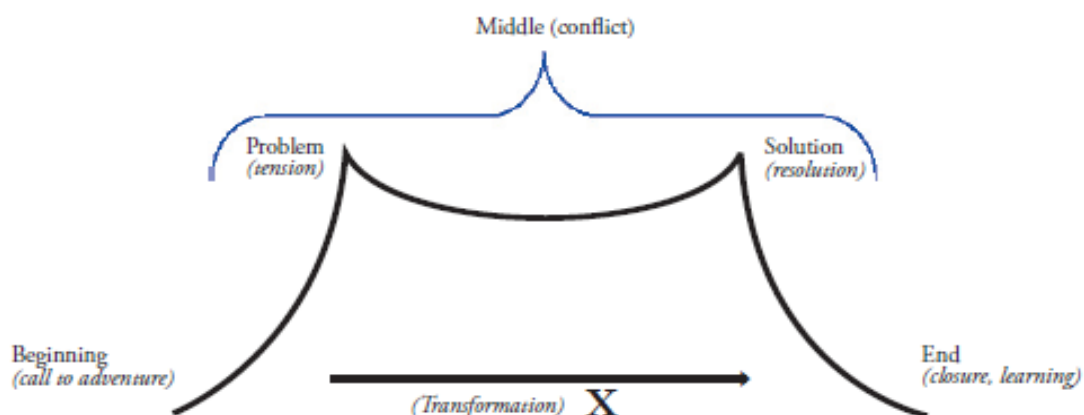


Digital Storytelling with Photostory

There are seven elements for creating effective digital stories according to the Center for Digital Storytelling (<http://www.storycenter.org>):

1. Point of View – Figure out what message you want the audience to receive.
2. A Dramatic Question – Use a “hook” to keep the attention of the audience until the story is over
3. Emotional Content – A story that deals with emotion will help the audience maintain focus.
4. The Gift of Your Voice – The way you use your voice drastically impacts the story you tell.
5. The Power of Soundtrack - The focus should be the narration and the music should support and enhance the storytelling.
6. Economy - Your selection of pictures, drawings, sounds, and special effects should illustrate the theme without becoming a distraction.
7. Pacing - Changing pace (with pauses, music, speed of images being shown, etc) allows the audience to concentrate, think, and maintain interest.

Visual Portrait of a Story:



Visual Portrait of a Story (dillingham, 2001), with transformation (ohler, 2003)

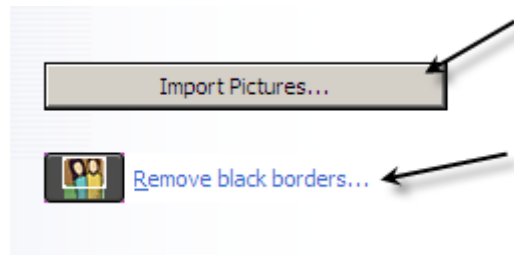
Equipment and Software Needed:

- Photostory3 (free download from Microsoft: <http://www.microsoft.com/Photostory>)
- Microphone
- Digital camera (optional)
- Scanner (if needed)

Step-by-Step:

1. Plan & write story!
2. Create folder and save all images inside it. Images must be saved as image files (ie jpg or gif, NOT as a Word document).
3. Open Photostory and select “Begin a new story.” Next.

4. Click the “Import pictures” button. Browse for the folder you created in step 2. Select the images (can select all at once by holding down the Ctrl + A keys). Change the order of images if you need to by dropping and dragging them on the timeline. OK.



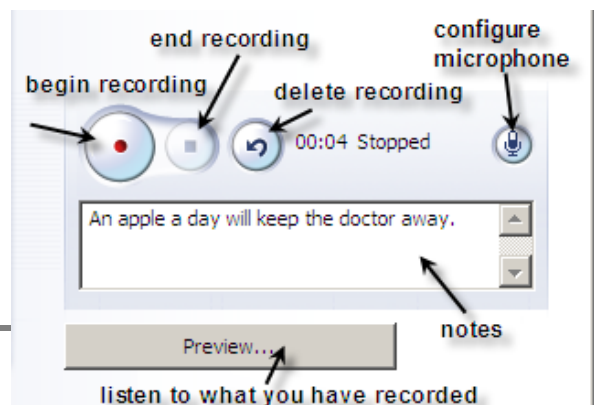
5. Remove black borders (if there are any) by clicking “Remove black borders.” Photostory will analyze your pictures and apply cropping. You can accept or reject the changes by clicking Yes or No.

6. There are optional editing features. Click on an image and explore the buttons just underneath it. You can correct color levels, remove red eye, rotate the image if it is sideways, and apply “Autofix.” When finished, click Next.



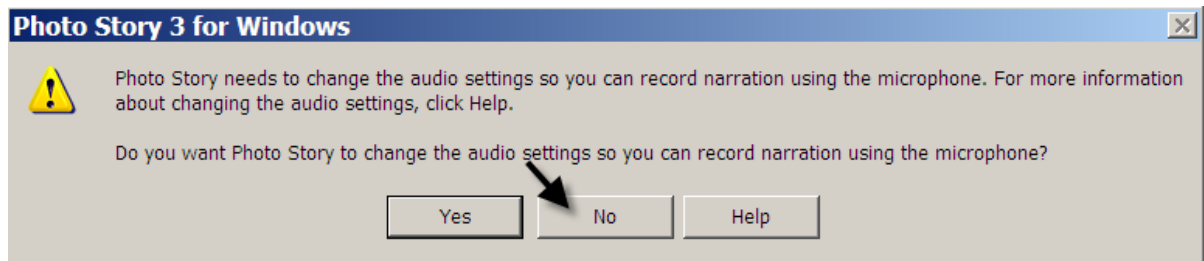
7. If you want to add a title to be shown on top of the image, click on the image and enter text into the box. Explore the formatting options (font and text alignment). Add special effects, if desired, such as black & white, or water color by using the Effects drop-down menu. Next.

8. Hook up a microphone to the computer. Add voice narration slide-by-slide. If you want to, copy/paste into the box the text you will read while recording. When ready, click the red button to begin recording.

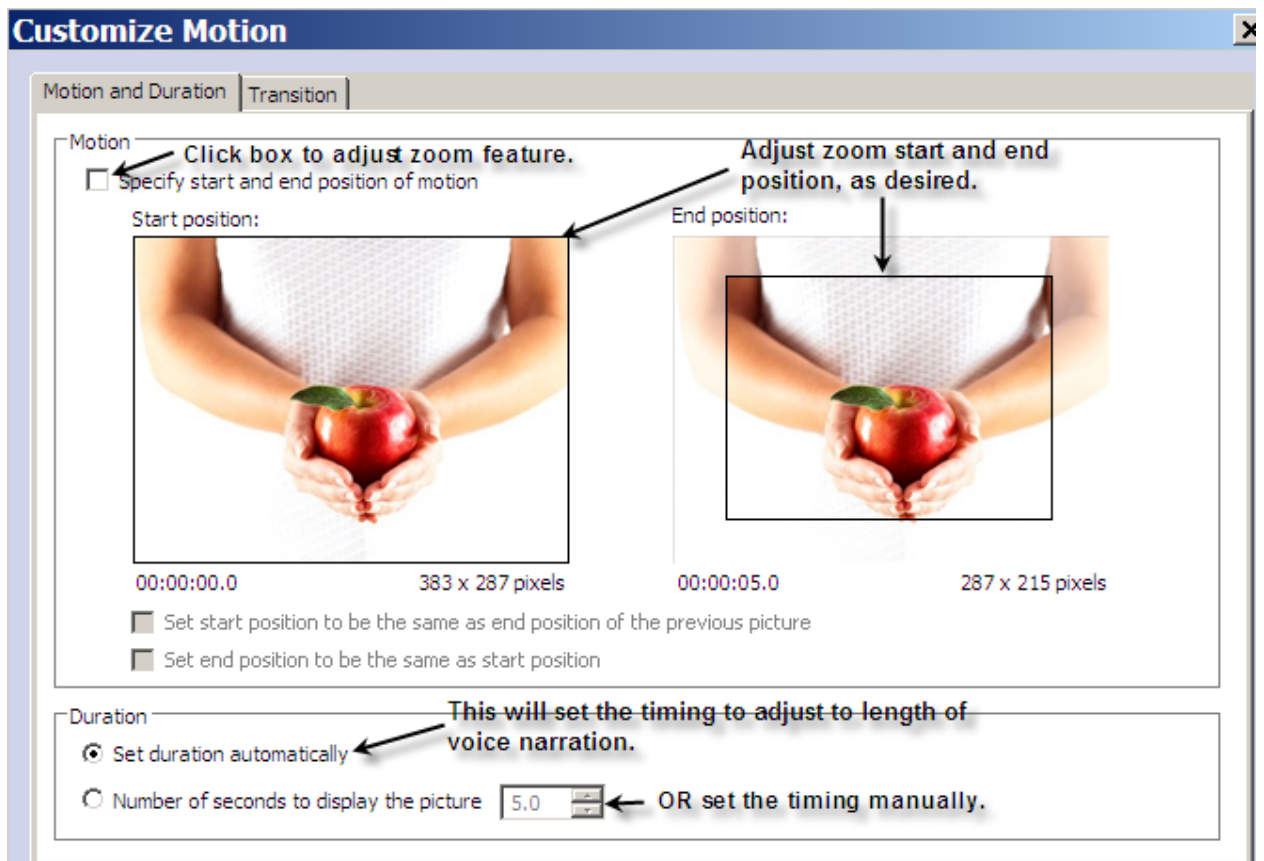
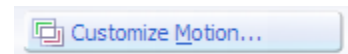


When you are finished recording, click the blue square. Listen/test your recording by clicking on the preview button. If you do not like it, click the delete button and re-record!

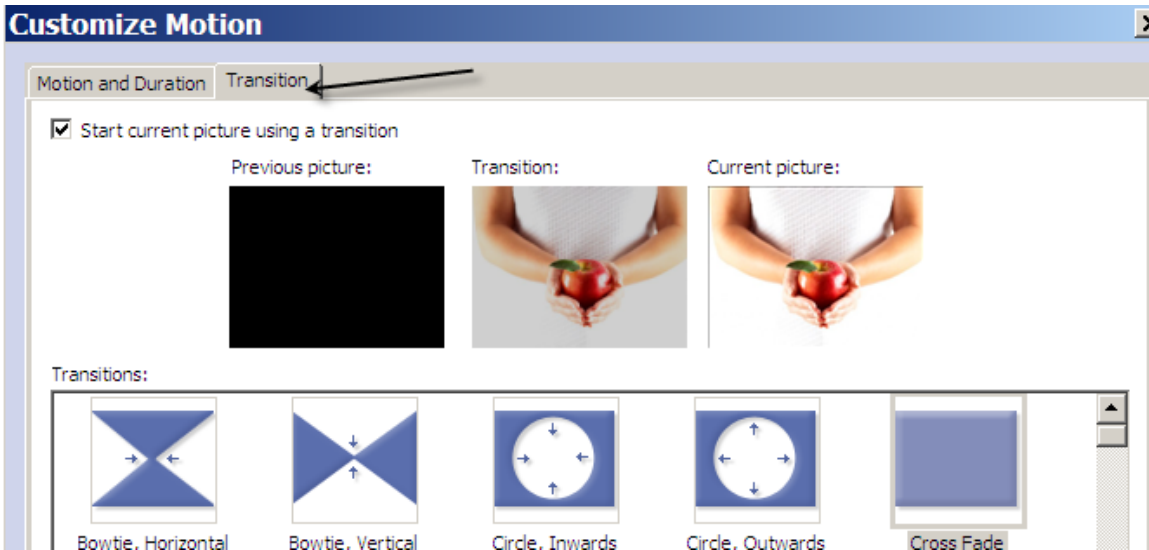
If you get this error message, click No.



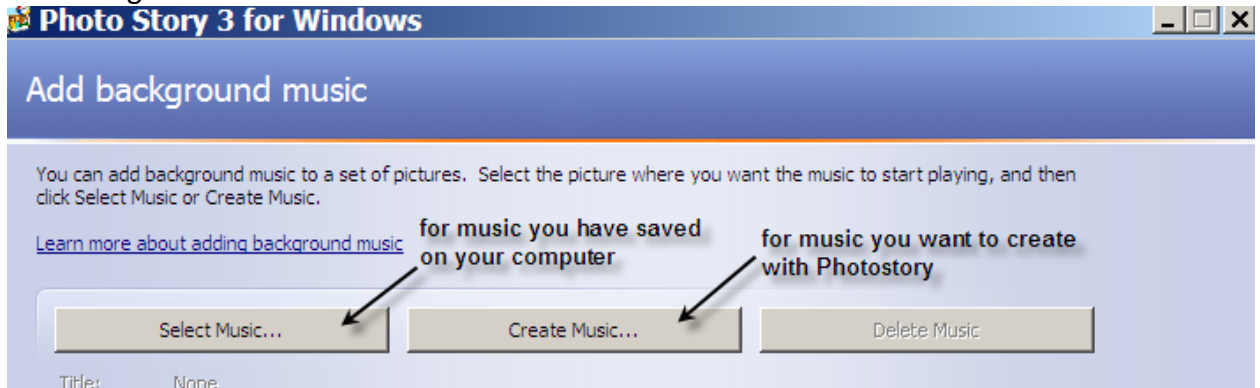
9. If desired, click the Customize Motion button to adjust the zooming feature.



Click the Transitions tab to apply transitions between images. Click on desired transition and preview it to see what it does. Save. Repeat to customize motion and apply transitions to additional images, if desired. Next.



10. Add background music.

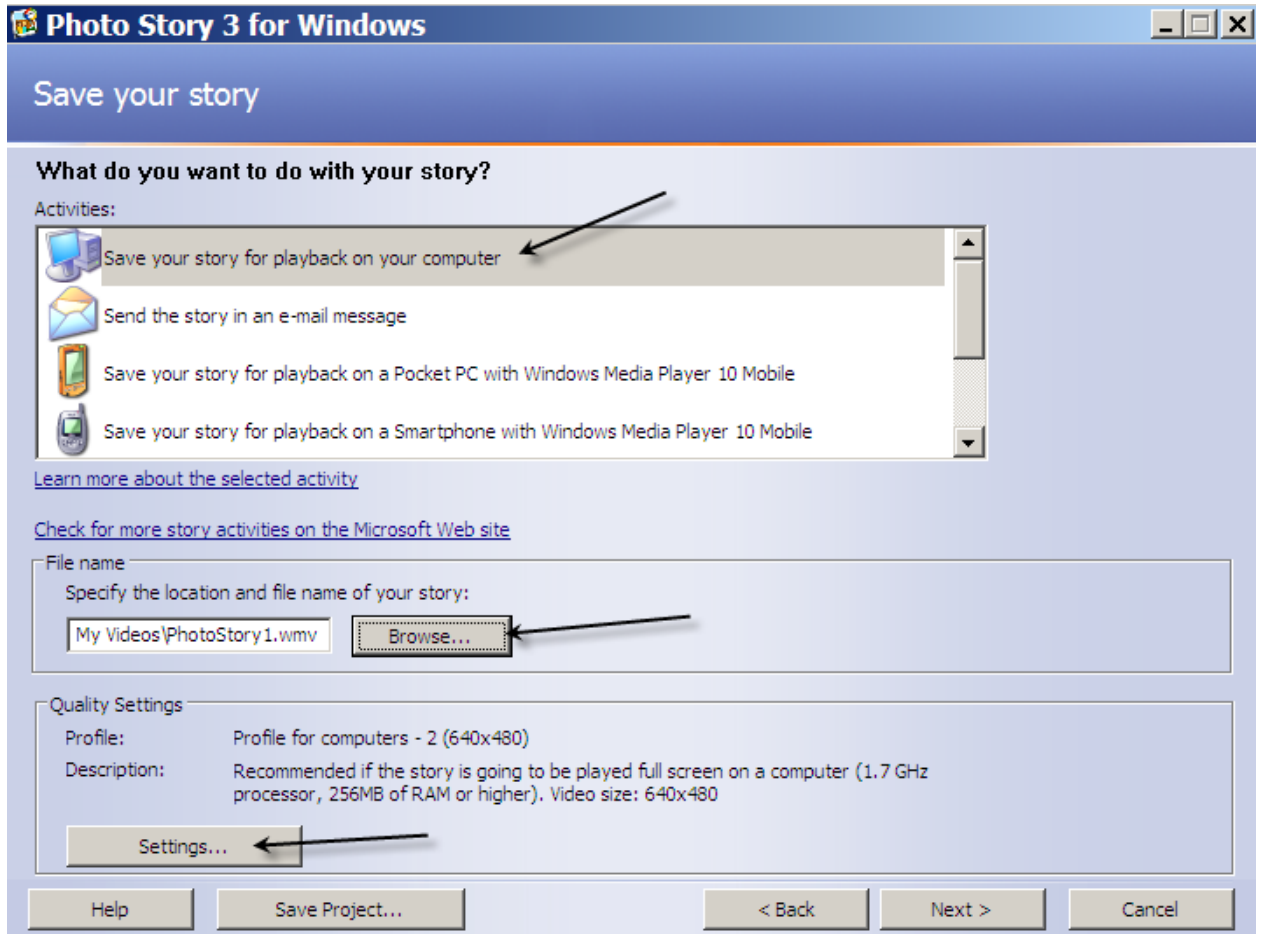


There are many ways to customize music: genre, style, bands, moods, tempo, and intensity. Make selections, then click the Play button to listen, then adjust settings as needed. OK.

11. Be sure to listen to the music with your voice narration by clicking the Preview button, then use the volume slider bar to adjust the volume of the music. Next.



12. Last (and very important) step! Saving your story converts the Photostory file to a video file (.wmv). Select “Save your story for playback on your computer,” browse for the location where you want your video to be saved, and change quality and size settings if you wish. If you are unsure of the settings, stick with the defaults! Next.



13. Wait. You can view your saved video if you want to or Exit!