

USING AUDIO TO AMPLIFY IMPACT AND STUDENT VOICES!

Basic skills for recording and integrating audio in language learning
with **Adobe Audition**



Rebecca Ramsey, Audiovisual Specialist
IU Center for Language Technology (CeLT)



Why learn audio editing skills?

Adding audio to the classroom:

- Scalable to student needs and levels, adaptable, versatile
- Portable and accessible
- Relevant both to student interests and authentic culture
- For enrichment, assessment, review, and more
- Familiarity with basic editing allows you to tailor authentic materials to students' needs

What about you?

Take one minute now to share in the chat about how you're currently using audio.

Applications:

- Add audio narration or notes to slides to explain difficult concepts
- Add audio and audio assignments to Canvas
- Provide pronunciation examples (both “good” and “bad”)
- Allow students to perform self-checks of skills
- Increase student buy-in by incorporating trends (*podcasts, Tik Tok-style videos, TED Talks, etc.*)
- Incorporate native speakers via interview projects, etc.

Authentic Materials

Use your new skills to adapt authentic materials to your students' skill levels and needs.

- Use songs, podcasts, and watch vlogs to improve listening skills
- Use poetry, songs, or role plays to improve pronunciation
- Use different recordings to introduce dialects and variety of voices
- Prepare your students for for real-life contexts
- Accelerate vocabulary learning and self-assessment

Student-Oriented Projects

- Podcasts that discuss current events, to introduce campus
- Interviews with local community members
- Classroom/campus news reports
- Organize cultural nights, poetry readings, tongue twister contests
- Capturing true stories in the community/campus/environment

Other Goals

- Assessment
- Review
- Student self-checks

Workshop Objectives

You will leave this workshop with the knowledge to:

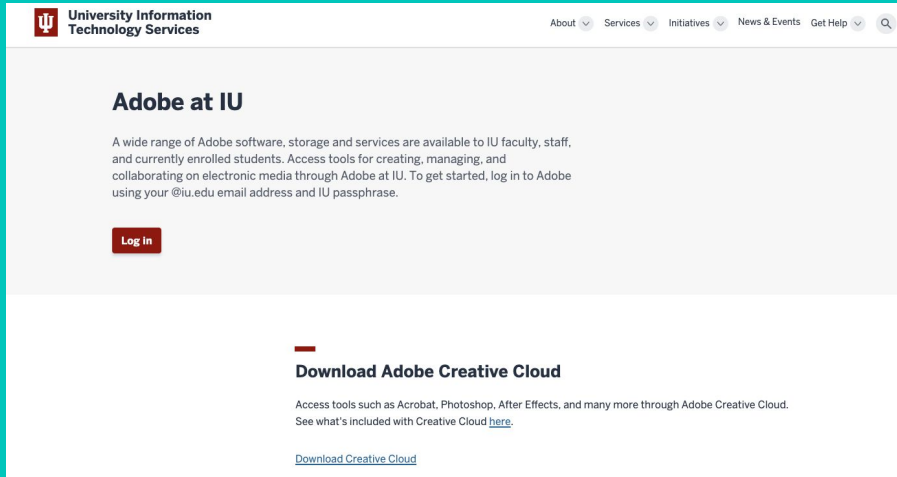
- Access Audition through Creative Cloud and elsewhere
- Record, import, and play audio files
- Add effects, make edits, and mix multiple audio files
- Export your new audio creations
- Begin integrating new and creative uses for multimedia into your teaching

Why use Audition?

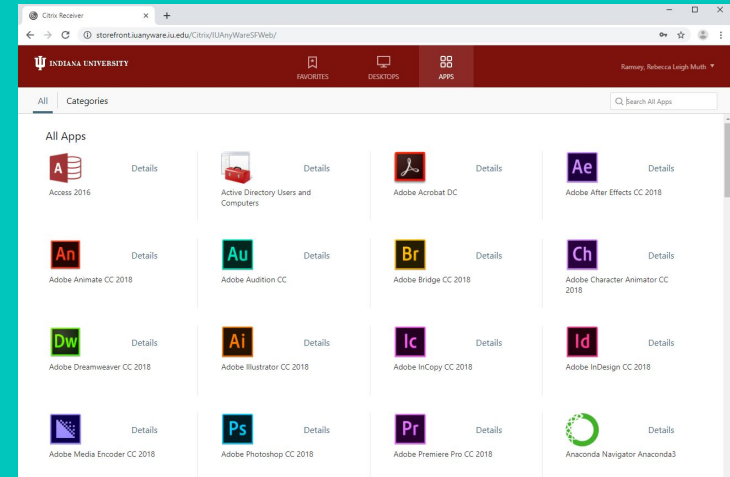
- Zoom is convenient but **not** optimized for audio, lacks editing capabilities.
- Audition is fully-featured and straightforward to use for both simple and complex audio tasks
- Part of the heavily university-supported Adobe Creative Cloud Suite, for PC and Mac
- CC programs have many similar features and interfaces– you may already have a head start!

Download Creative Cloud to your personal computer:

- **Step 1:** To begin the process, visit <https://adobe.iu.edu>
- **Step 2:** Locate the heading “Download Adobe Creative Cloud” and click the link [Download Creative Cloud](#).



IUanyWare: Access a virtual suite of free-to-use software from *any* computer, *anywhere*. To begin, visit [IUanyware.iu.edu](https://iuanyware.iu.edu)



Accessing Adobe Programs

All IU affiliates have free access to the entire [Adobe Creative Cloud](#) suite of software both on campus and for installation on your personal workstation (*PC and Mac*).

If you have difficulty with any of these steps, please visit the IU Knowledge: <https://kb.iu.edu/d/bffs>

Common Terms



Frequency – the pitch of the sound, measured in Hertz (Hz), higher numbers are higher pitch



Amplitude – the loudness of the sound, usually measured in decibels (dB)



Waveform – the representation of a sound (usually as a graphic), in Audition refers to a single audio file



Multitrack – in Audition refers to a work session where multiple waveforms can be mixed and edited as part of a single project



Effects – in Audition refers to any processing function applied to the waveform as a whole



File Format – the digital “container” of a file



For editing/preservation: **.wav**
For sharing/online: **.mp3**

Before recording, consider...

Environment

Equipment

Purpose

Practice

Remember: Pause for a moment to LISTEN!

What background noise do you hear?

Often we don't notice background noise if we are not actively listening, but this noise can be a big problem on your recording.

Best Practices

Although Audition offers many editing tools, there is no substitute for a good quality recording!

Try to remember these best practices:

- Always be mindful of the environment in which you are recording.
 - If you are struggling to find a quiet location to record, ask CeLT staff!
- Always check and adjust your microphone level before recording.
- Always leave a short pause at the beginning of recording, before beginning to speak.
 - This eliminates the possibility of accidentally missing the beginning of your audio **and** provides a noise sample for Noise Reduction, if necessary.
- Always fade in your file at the beginning and fade out at the end.
 - These fades don't have to be long but will make your file sound smoother and more polished.
- Never be afraid to ask for assistance if you have a question or concern. CeLT is happy to help!

APPS

All apps

Updates

CATEGORIES

Photo

Graphic design

Video

Illustration

UI and UX

3D and AR

Social media

Acrobat and PDF

Beta apps

RESOURCE LINKS

Stock

Manage fonts

All apps

Desktop

Mobile

Web

Installed



Photoshop

Up to date

Open



Illustrator v 25.2.1

Up to date

Open



Illustrator v 24.3

Up to date

Open



Acrobat DC

Up to date

Open



Premiere Pro v 15.0

Up to date

Open



Premiere Pro v 14.9

Up to date

Open



After Effects

Up to date

Open



Audition v 14.0

Up to date

Open



Opening Audition: the Default Workspace

The screenshot shows the Audition software interface with the following labeled components:

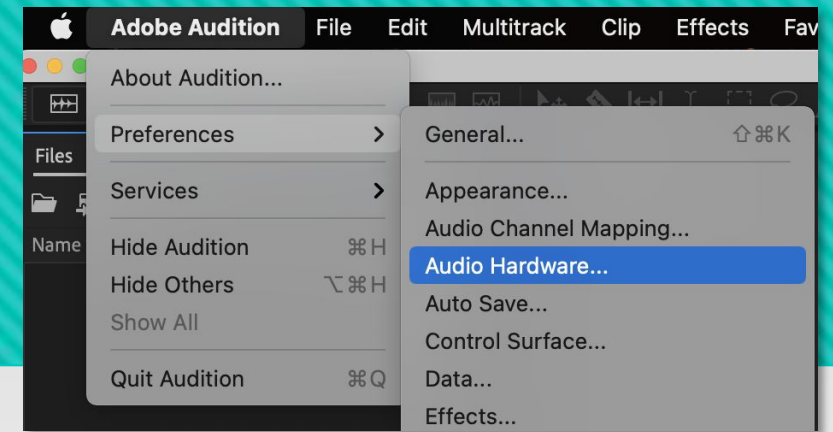
- Tools bar**: Located at the top center, containing various editing tools.
- Session type toggle**: Located at the top left, showing 'Waveform' and 'Multitrack' options.
- Files panel**: Located on the left side, containing a file browser with columns for Name, Status, and Duration.
- Effects Rack**: Located on the left side, showing a list of effects slots (1-9) and input/output meters.
- History panel**: Located at the bottom left, showing a list of actions.
- Editor panel**: The central workspace for editing audio.
- Playback control bar**: Located at the bottom center, containing play, stop, and other playback controls.
- Volume meter**: Located at the bottom center, showing a dB scale from -57 to 0.
- Selection/View table**: Located at the bottom right, showing a table with columns for Selection, View, Start, End, and Duration.

Selection/View		Start	End	Duration
Selection		0:00.000	0:00.000	0:00.000
View		0:00.000	0:00.000	0:00.000

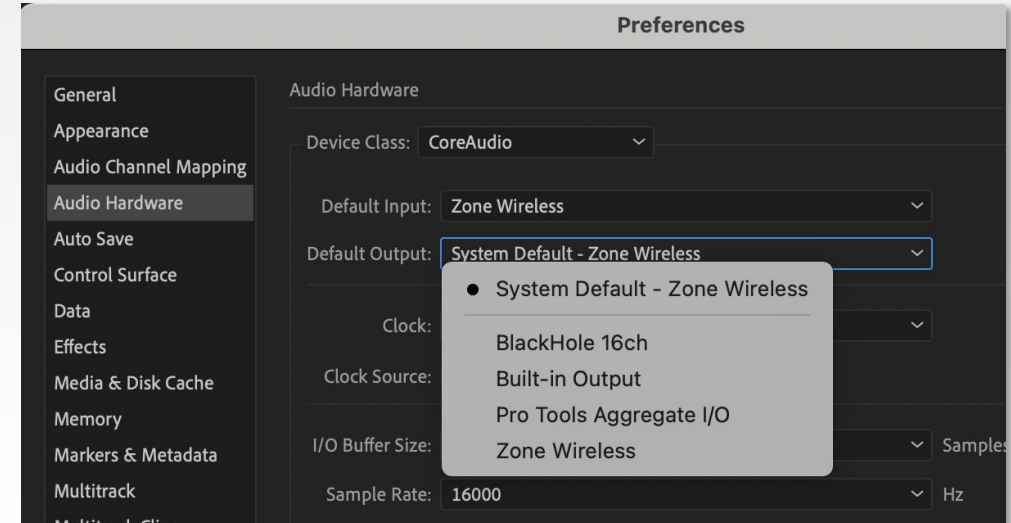
0 Undo

12.69 GB free

Configuring Audio Devices



- **Step 1:** Launch Audition (with the “Open” button) from the “Installed” list of apps in the Creative Cloud manager.
- **Step 2:** At the top of the screen, navigate to **Edit > Preferences > Audio Hardware** (or Adobe Audition > Preferences > Audio Hardware on Mac).
- **Step 3:** With your headset plugged into your computer, click the drop-down arrow next to “Default Input” and verify that your device is appearing. “System Default” should automatically select your headset source when it is plugged in, but it’s best to check.
- **Step 4:** Do the same with the “Default Output.”
- **Step 5:** Click “Okay” at the bottom of the Preferences panel. These settings are retained the next time you open the program.



Tool Bar and Editor Panel

To learn more about the Audition interface and basic navigation, view UITS IT Training's video: https://iu.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/t/1_azi4qlfo

Move
Tool

Slip Tool



Razor Tool

Time Selection
Tool

Some of the tools are only available in particular editing modes and will be grayed out when unavailable.

The screenshot shows the Adobe Audition interface with the following labels:

- Zoom view**: Located at the top right of the waveform display.
- Timeline**: Located at the top center of the waveform display.
- Current-time indicator**: A vertical red line indicating the current playback position.
- Heads-up display**: A small display at the top center showing volume level (+0 dB).
- Waveform display**: The main area showing the audio waveform.
- Playback control bar**: Located at the bottom of the waveform display, containing play, stop, and other controls.
- Time indicator**: Located at the bottom left, showing the current time (0:06.046).

Selection/View			
	Start	End	Duration
Selection	0:06.046	0:06.046	0:00.000
View	0:00.000	0:09.302	0:09.302

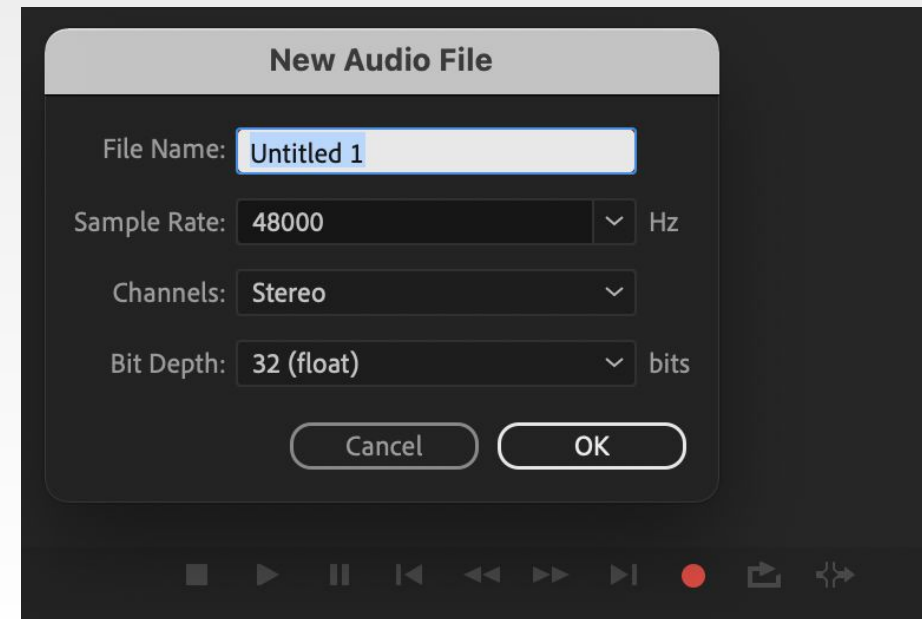
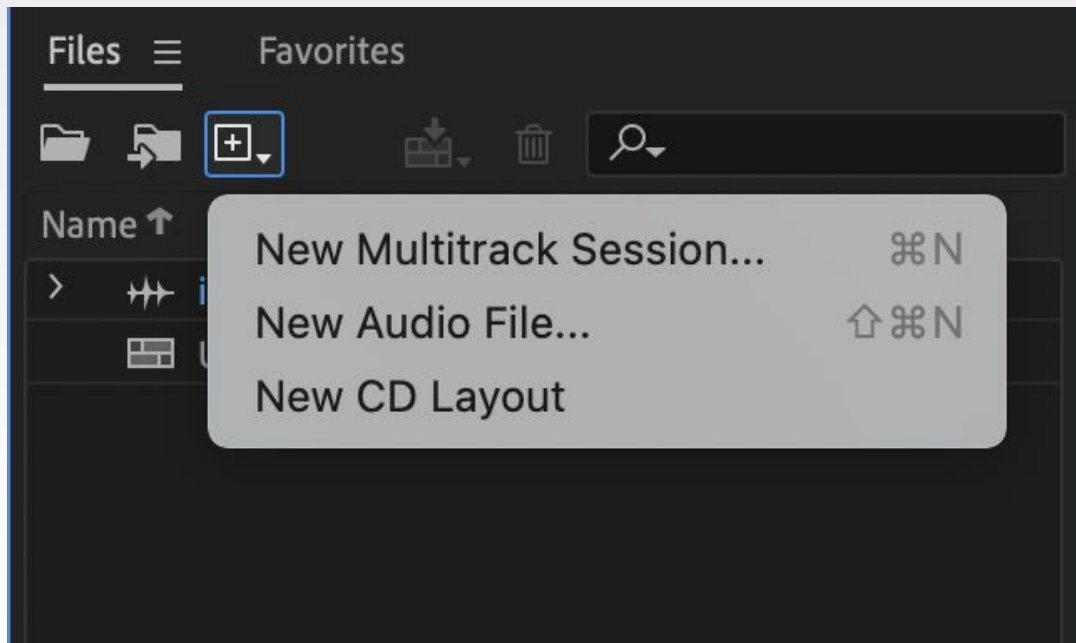
Technical details at the bottom: 44100 Hz • 32-bit (float) • Mono | 1.56 MB | 0:09.302 | 11.88 GB free

Getting Ready to Record

To begin a new recording, you have several options:

- File > New > Audio File
- *In the Files panel: New File > New Audio File*
- *Pressing the red Record button in the playback controls*

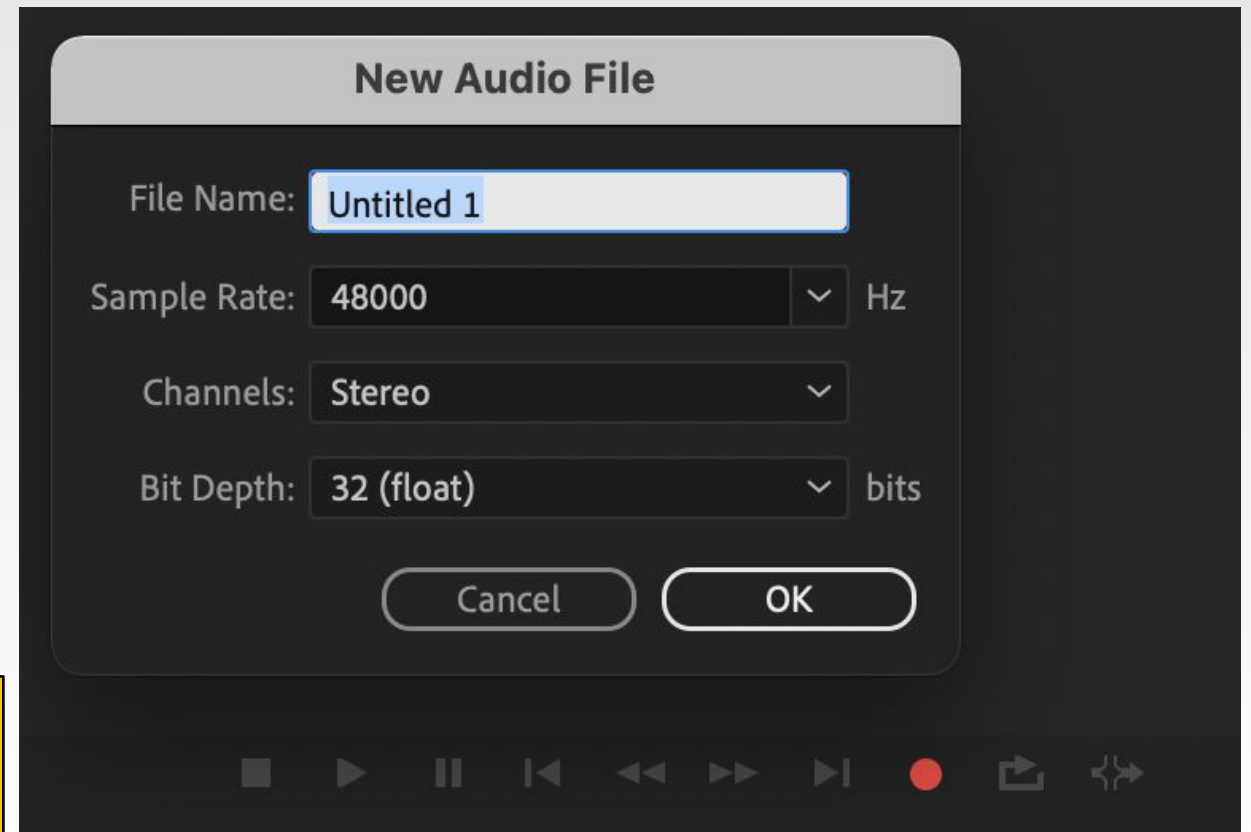
You will now see the file name listed in the “Files” panel.



Recommended Recording Settings

- **File Name:** *Giving your file a clear name will be helpful when working with multiple files in a multitrack session.*
- **Sample Rate:** 44100 Hz for most projects
- **Channels:** Mono for a single microphone input
- **Bit Depth:** 16 bits for most projects

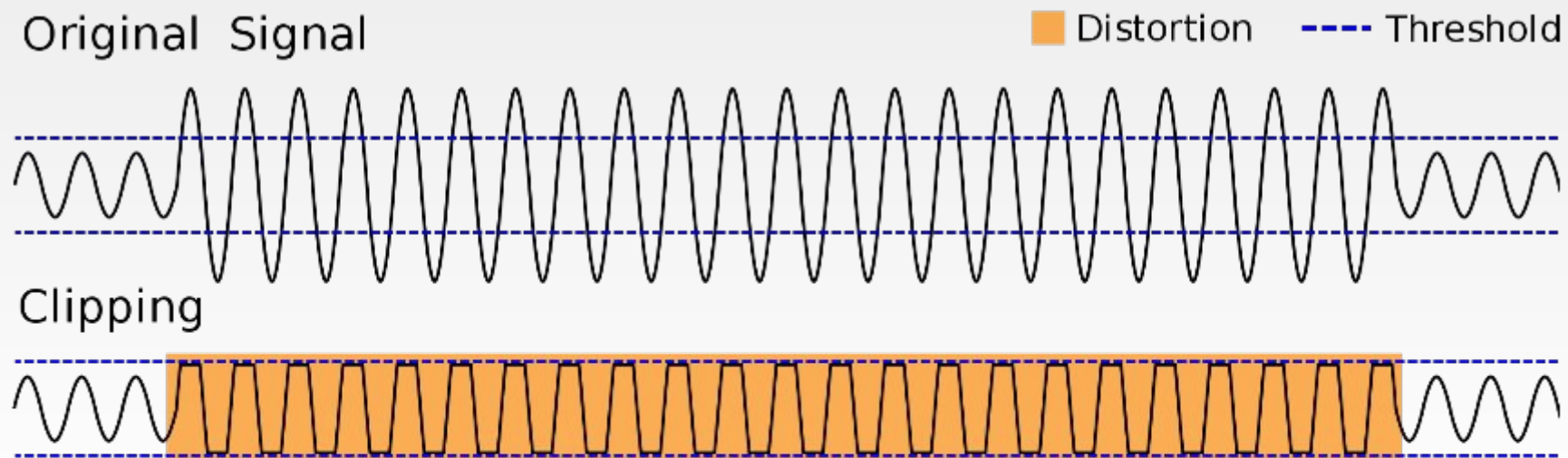
Note: Audition does not have any input volume settings and relies on the audio device's own volume control. To adjust the microphone volume, visit your computer's audio settings.



What is clipping?

Clipping happens when the signal is too loud and exceeds the maximum possible volume.

Always check your recording volume before beginning to record, in order to avoid this audible distortion!
In Audition, try to make your average volume fall between -18dB and -6dB on the volume meter.

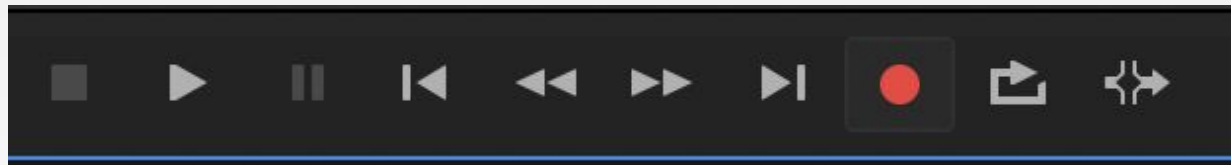


Recording in Waveform Mode

For most speech-oriented purposes, it's easiest to record in “Waveform” mode.

To begin recording: Press the red “Record” button in the playback controls.

To stop recording: Press the square “Stop” button in the playback controls *or* press “Record” again.



Note: The playback bar also offers a number of other functions during recording, including pausing record, recording over portions of the existing track (replacing content), etc.

Saving Your Project and Your Recording

The screenshot displays the Adobe Audition interface. The 'File' menu is open, showing options such as 'New', 'Open...', 'Save', and 'Export'. The 'Export' option is highlighted, and a secondary menu is visible below it with 'File...' selected. The 'Export File' dialog box is open, showing the following settings:

- File Name: intro.wav
- Location: /Users/rlmuth/Desktop/CeLT
- Format: Wave PCM (*.wav, *.bwf, *.rf64, *.amb)
- Sample Type: 44100 Hz Mono, 32-bit
- Format Settings: Wave Uncompressed, 32-bit Floating Point (IEEE)
- Include markers and other metadata
- Estimated File Size: 1.16 MB

Buttons for 'Browse...', 'Change...', 'Cancel', and 'OK' are visible in the dialog box.

Remember: Saving will save your Audition project workspace. Exporting will save your new creation as an audio file. A “peak” file will also be generated when you export, but you generally won’t need to retain it after finishing your project.

Hands On!

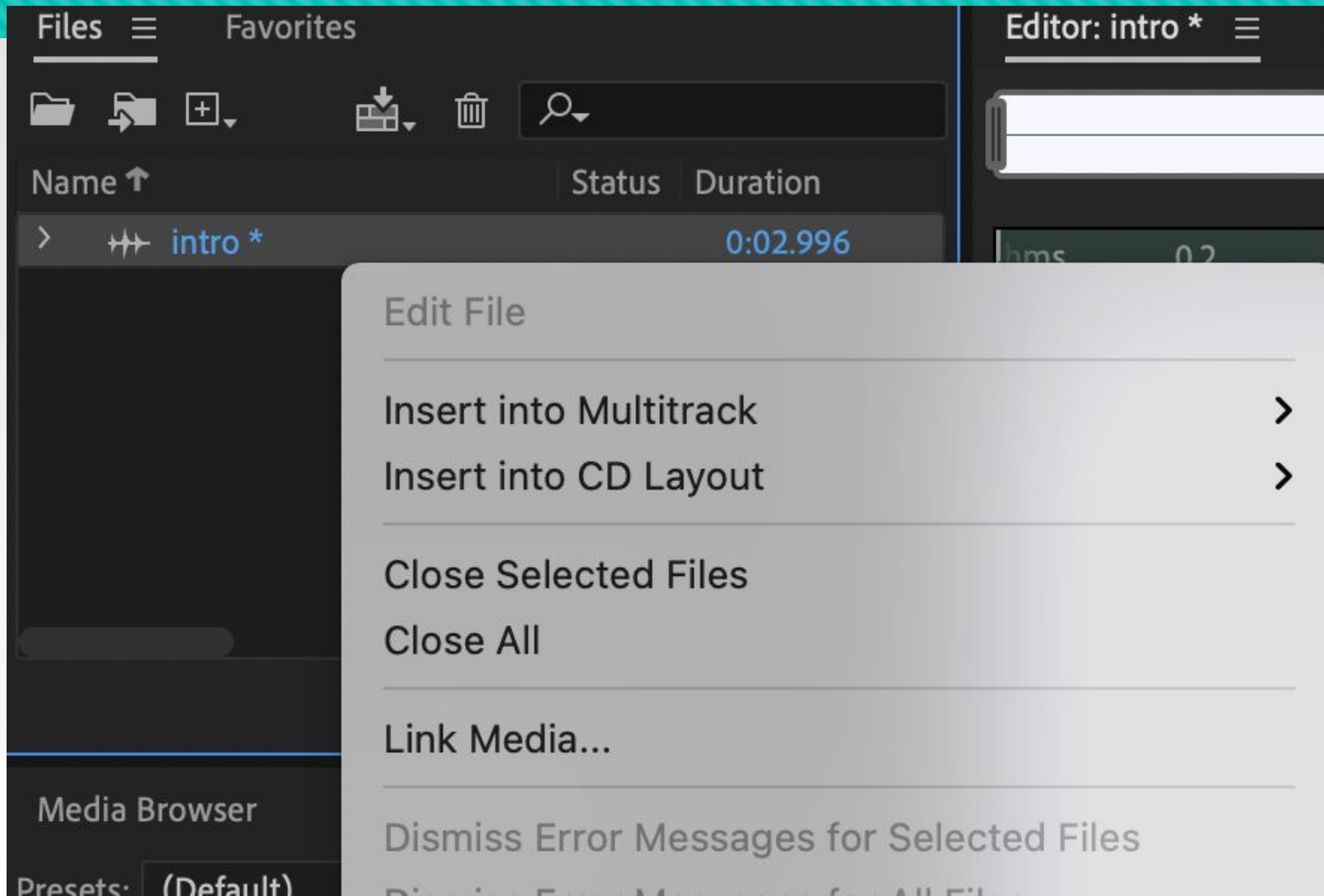
Now, try recording in Audition.

Throughout this workshop we will make a brief “podcast.” First, we will record the introduction.

- Put on your headset and create a **New Audio File**.
- Press the “**Record**” button, then speak a sentence or two to introduce yourself to your “audience.”
 - *“Hello, this is Rebecca Ramsey from the Center for Language Technology.”*
- Press the “**Stop**” button to end the recording.
- Export your audio file to your desktop as a WAV file named “**intro.wav**”.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional help.

Managing Multiple Files



Once created, all of the files will be listed by name in the Files panel.

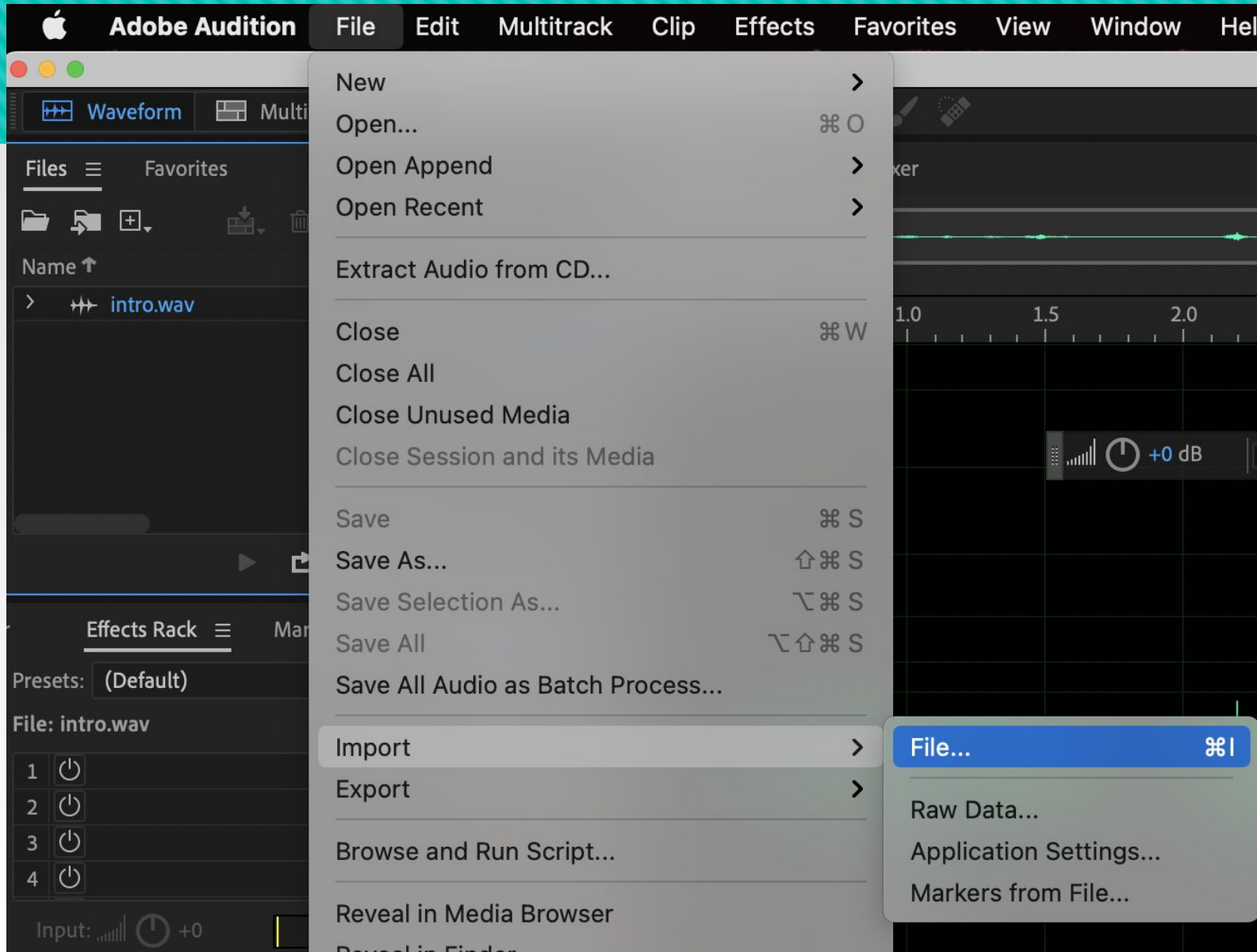
To open a file in Waveform mode:

Double-click on the file name in the Files panel to open the Waveform view of it.

To close a file permanently:

Right-click on the file name in the Files panel and select either Close Selected Files or Close All

Importing Audio



To import audio:
Go to File > Import > File
and select desired file
or
Drag and drop audio file into
the “Files” panel

**Once imported, you can
double-click on the name in
the “Files” panel to open it.**

Hands On!

Now, let's make a few more segments for our podcast.

- For this demonstration we will start with a blank session, so right-click in the Files panel and select **“Close All.”**
- Now create a new audio file titled **“middle”** and record a few sentences about what your students learned this week. We will not be exporting this file yet.
- Finally, create another new audio file titled **“ending”** and record one more time to create your ending. *“Next week we’ll be discussing _____, so stay tuned!”* Do not export this file either.

You can toggle between your available audio files by double-clicking on their name in the Files panel.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional help.

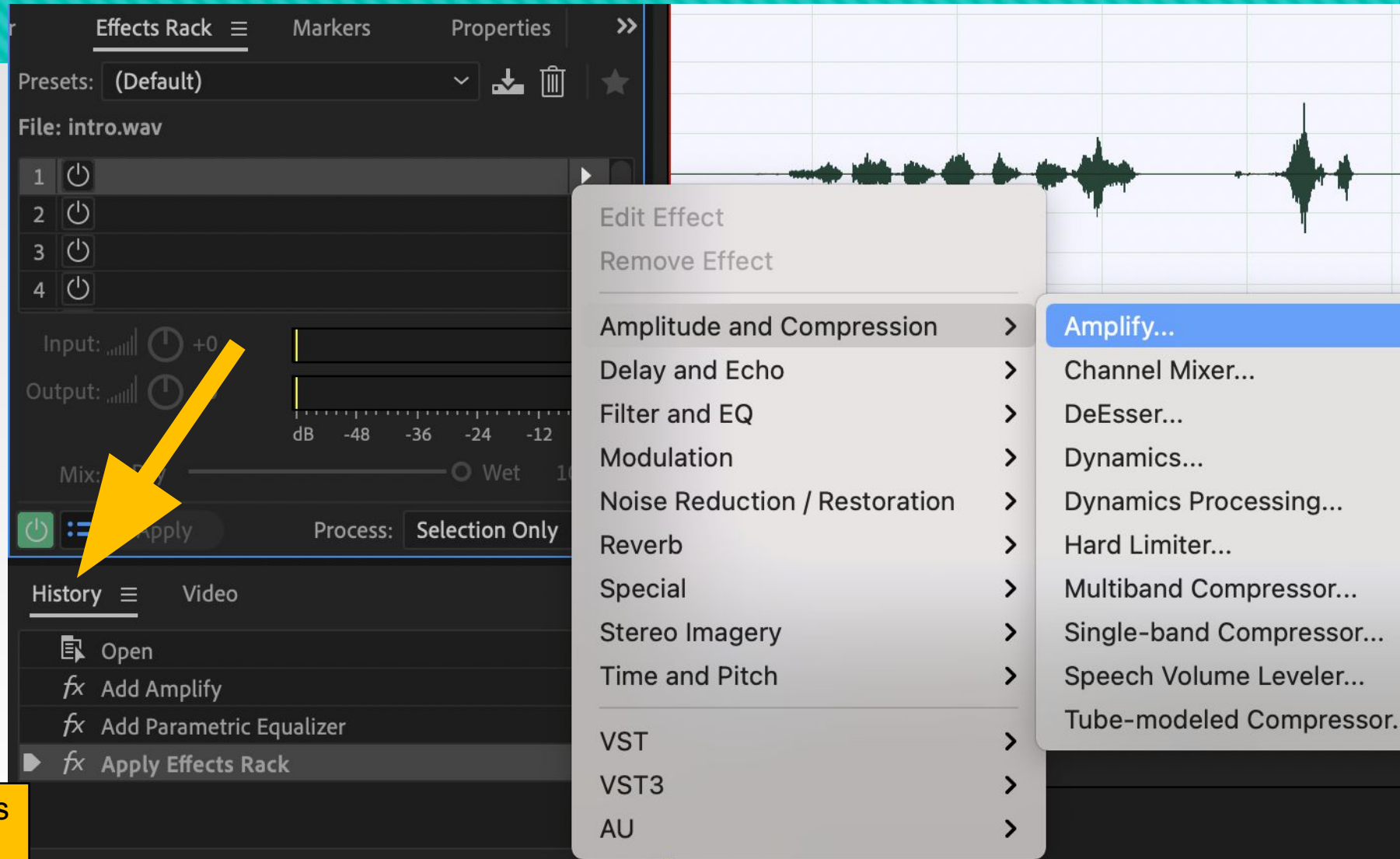
Basic Editing

Let's take a look at some features of the editing interface and effects rack.

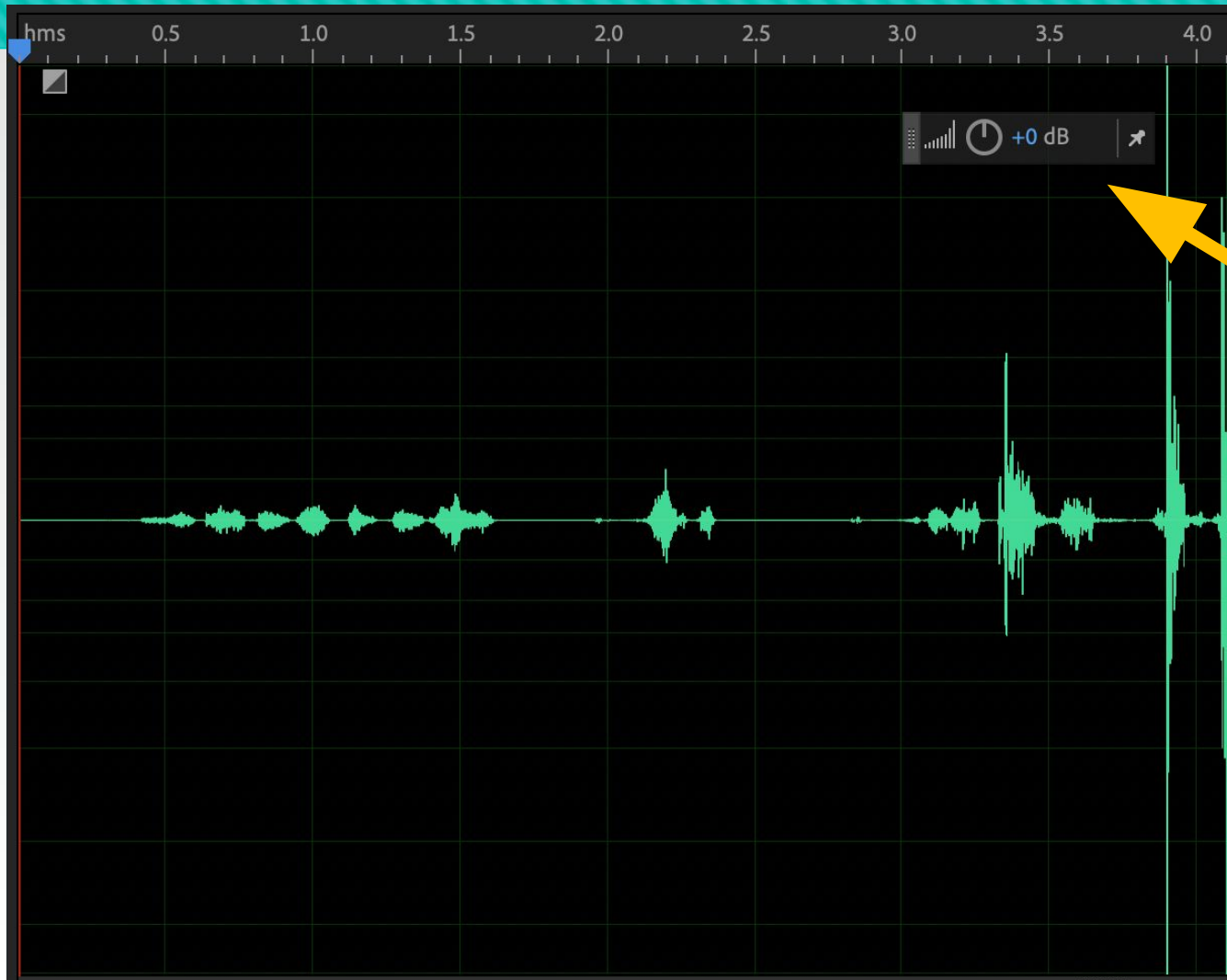
Basic processing tasks can be done in Waveform mode, while trimming and other editing is easier in Multitrack mode.

The **History** panel makes it easy to undo and redo changes!

Remember: You must “**apply**” the effects rack before the changes will be reflected.



Changing the Volume

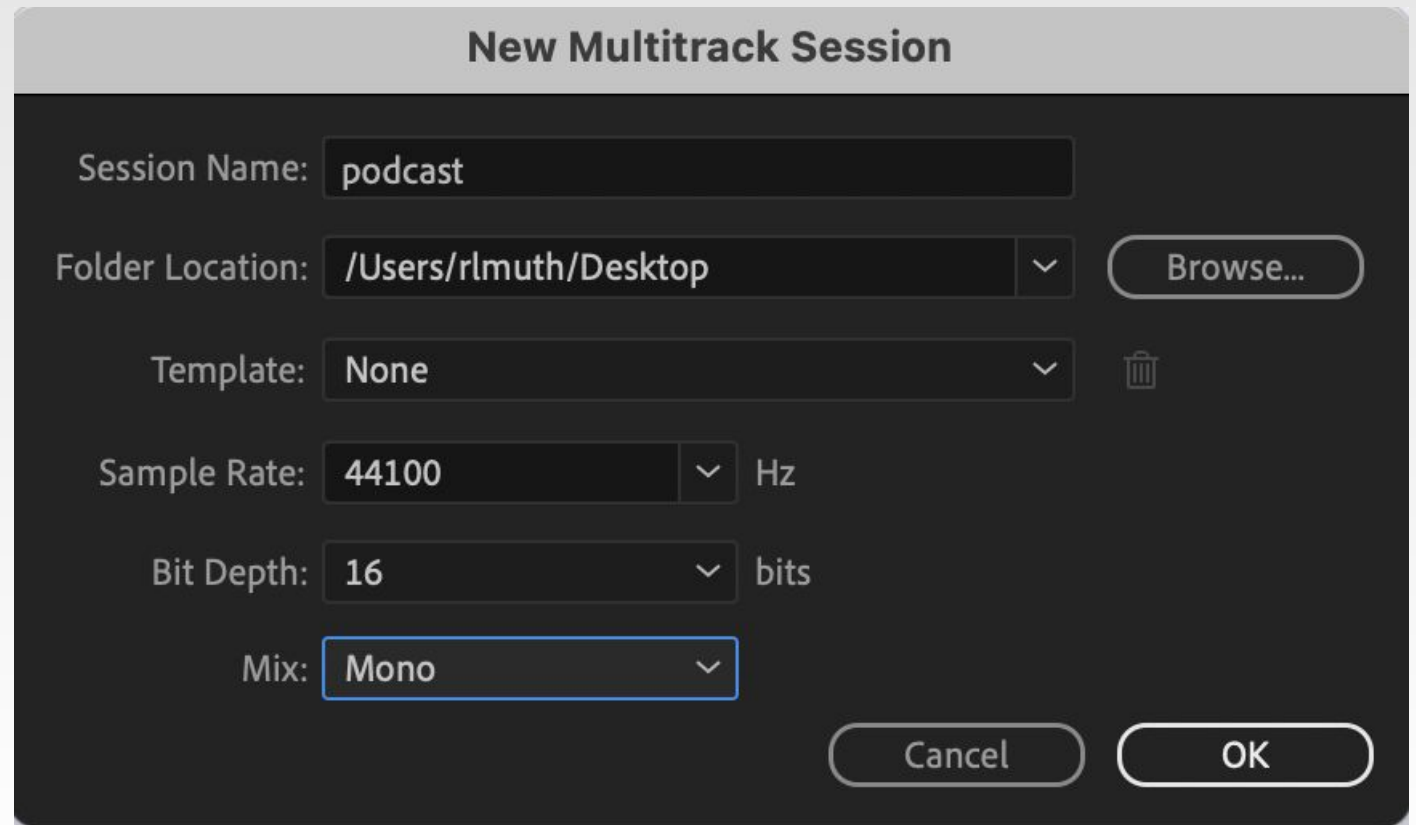
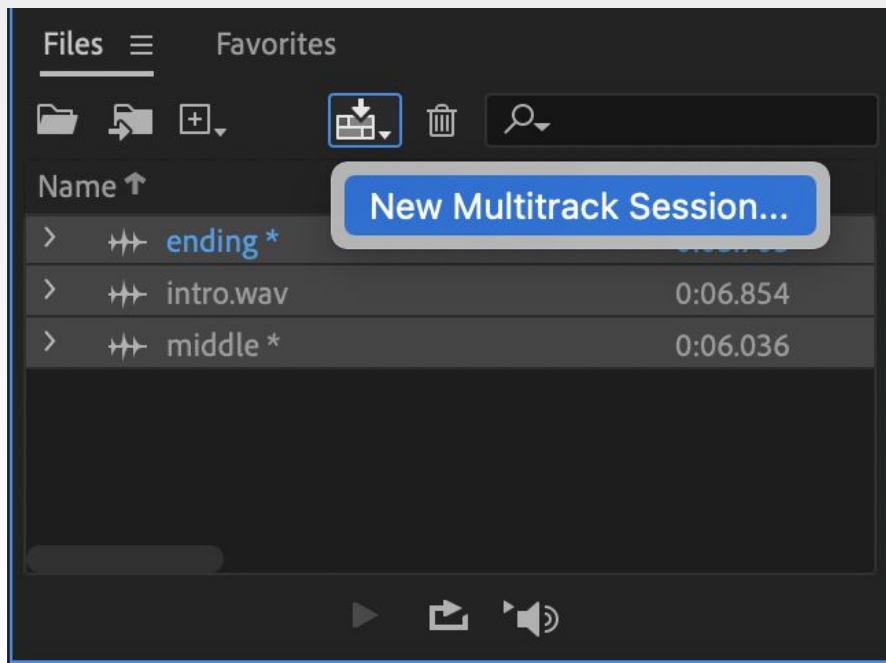


The **Heads-Up Display** allows you to quickly change the volume for the entire clip.

Combining Multiple Files

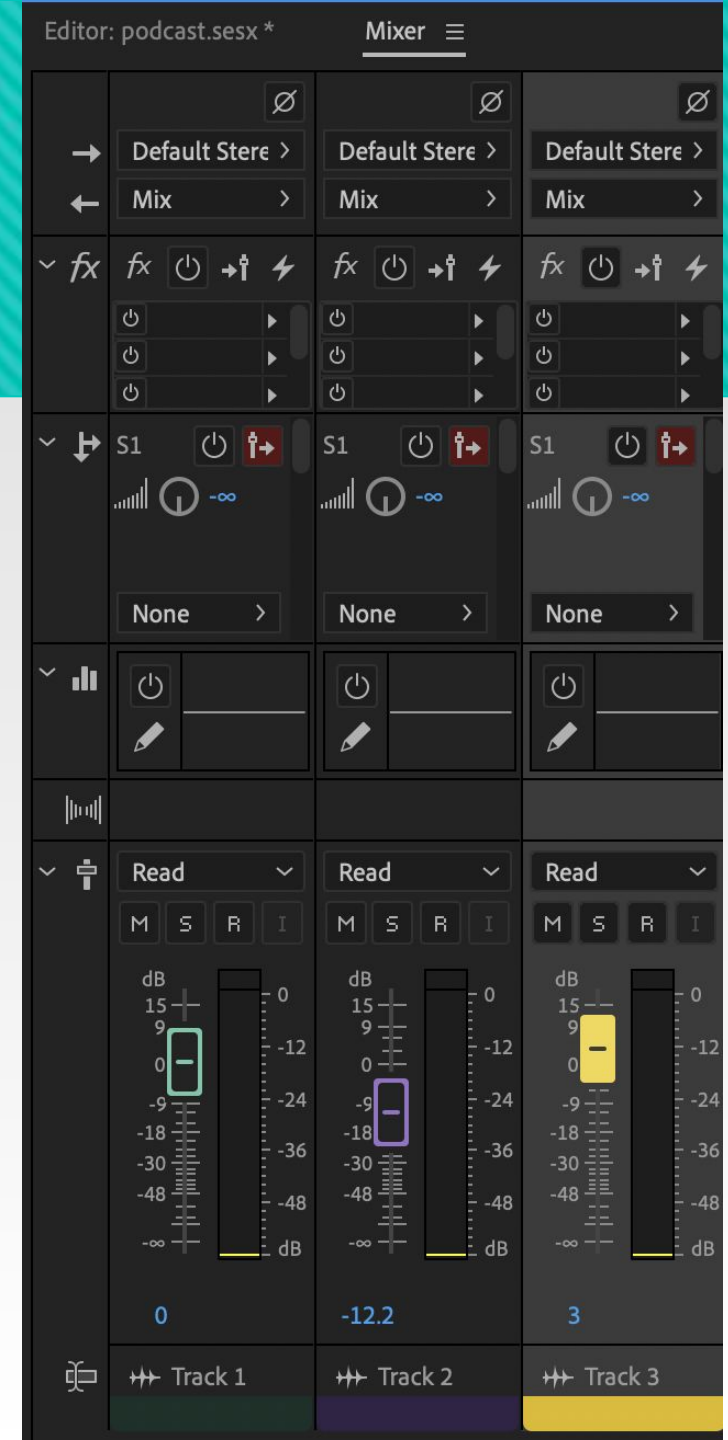
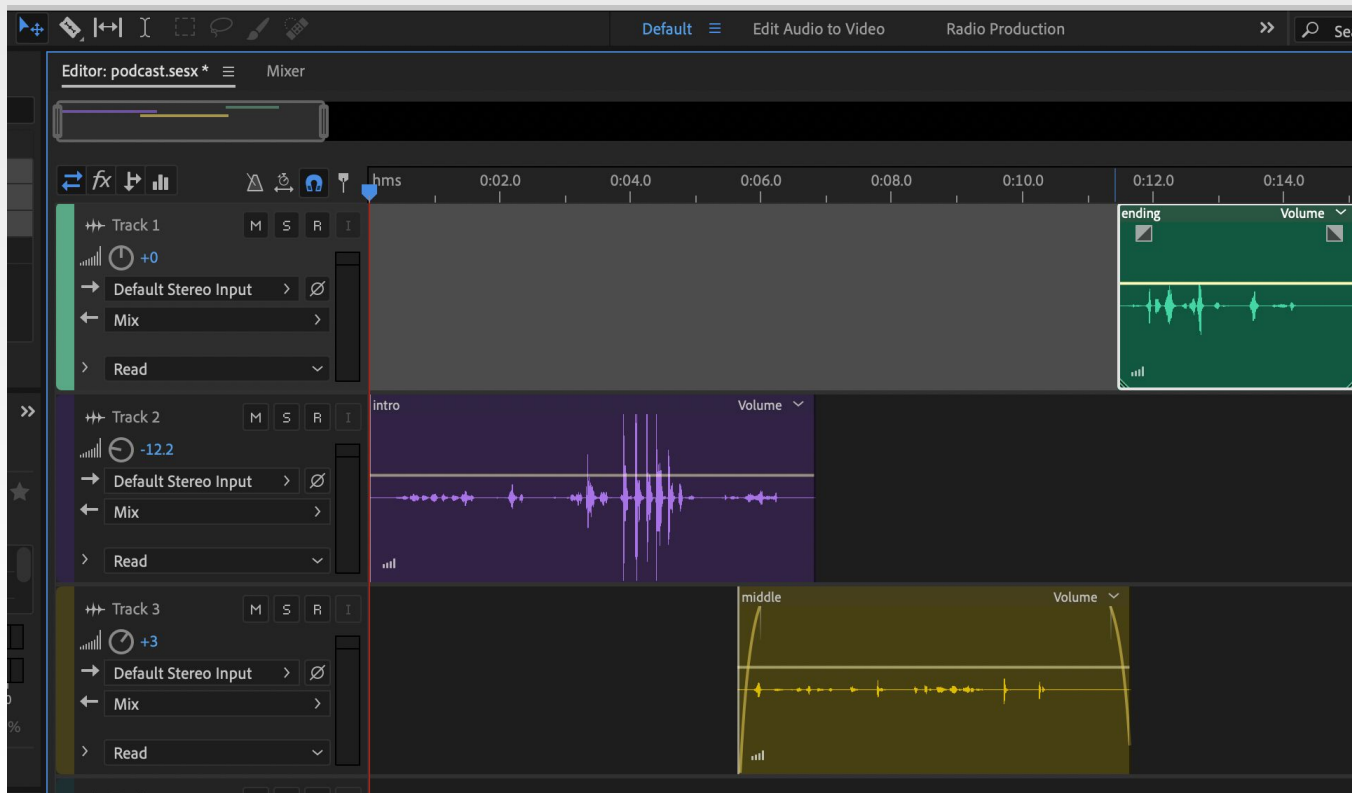
To mix multiple audio clips into one, you must use **Multitrack mode**.

- *In the Files panel, with the clips selected:*
New Multitrack Session



Editor vs. Mixer Views

In Multitrack mode you can assemble/reorder clips, perform edits, and change the entire track volumes relative to each other.



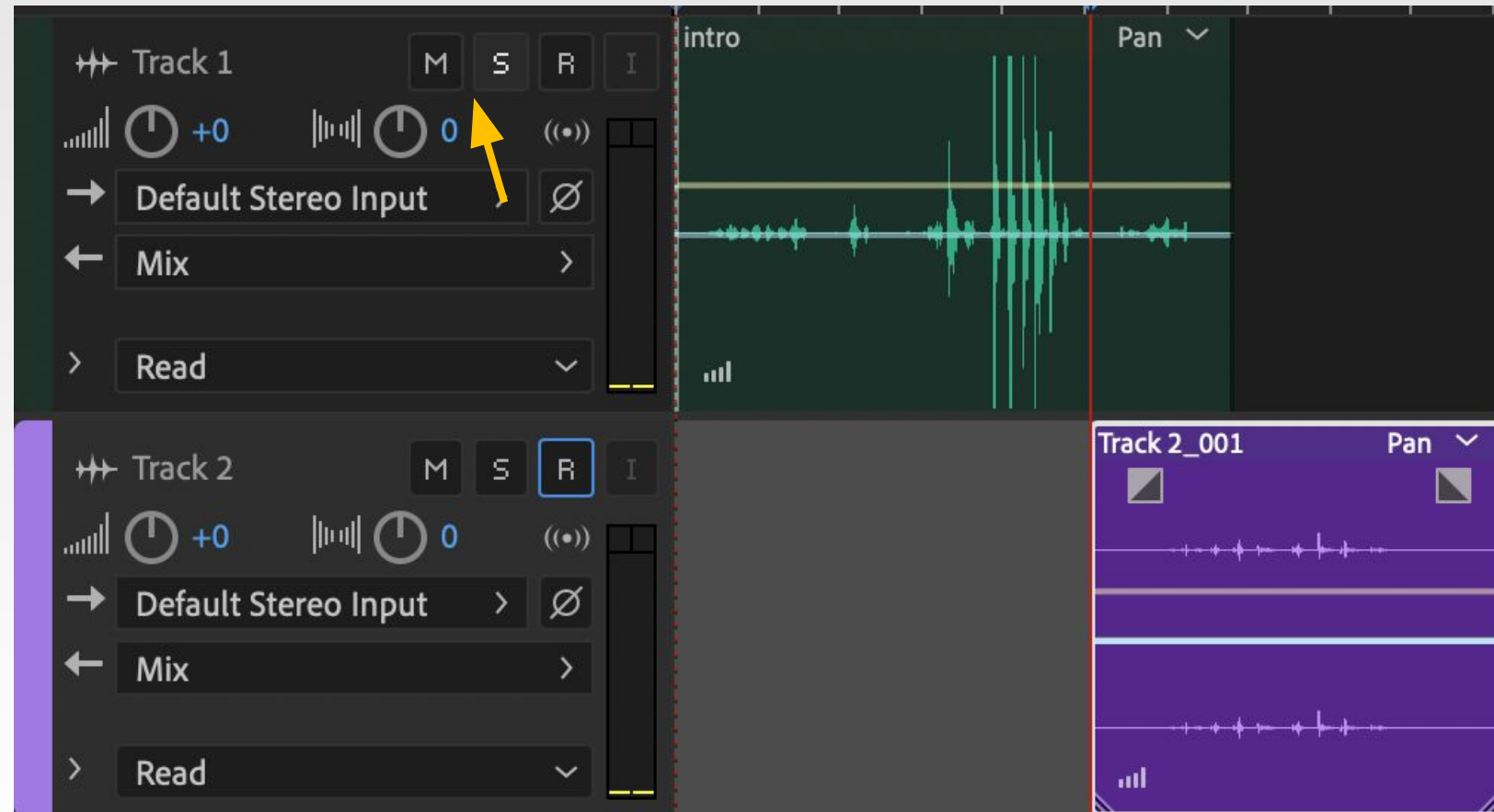
Listening to Your Audio

All of the audio tracks in your multitrack session will play simultaneously.

If you don't want to hear some of them, you will need to mute or solo tracks by clicking the **mute** or **solo** button by the track name.

Mute: Mute will “turn off” playback of only the track muted.

Solo: Solo will play only the track soloed. The rest will not play.



Creating Fades and Joining Clips

A **fade** is a gradual increase or decrease in the loudness of an audio track, generally used to “smooth” the beginning and end of a recording.

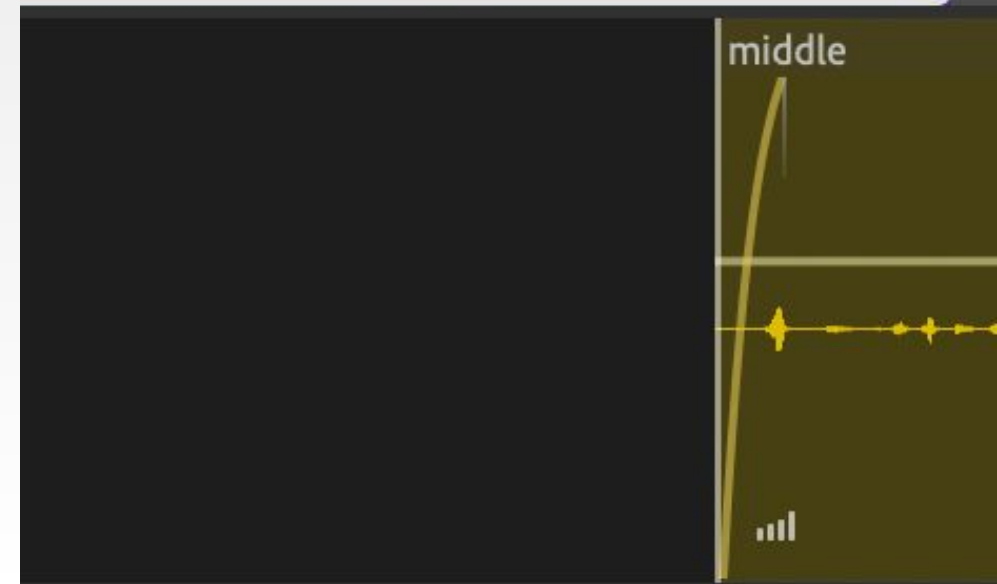
Fading In or Out: To fade your clip, hover your mouse over the top corner edge of the clip until the bi-colored gray square appears. Click it and drag the fade to your desired duration. It will be automatically applied once you release the click.

To join two clips together:

Line the tracks up appropriately by selecting the “Move” in the Tool Bar and then drag the clips horizontally until they are aligned.

You should always **crossfade** your audio when joining tracks together. This means fading out the first track while fading in the second.

Note: The clips, even if aligned, are still discrete audio files on your computer until you **export** the multitrack session as a new file.



Common Audio Fixes and Effects

Most commonly used editing tools:

- * Volume/Amplification
- * Trimming
- * Joining multiple files
- * Noise reduction

To remove background noise:

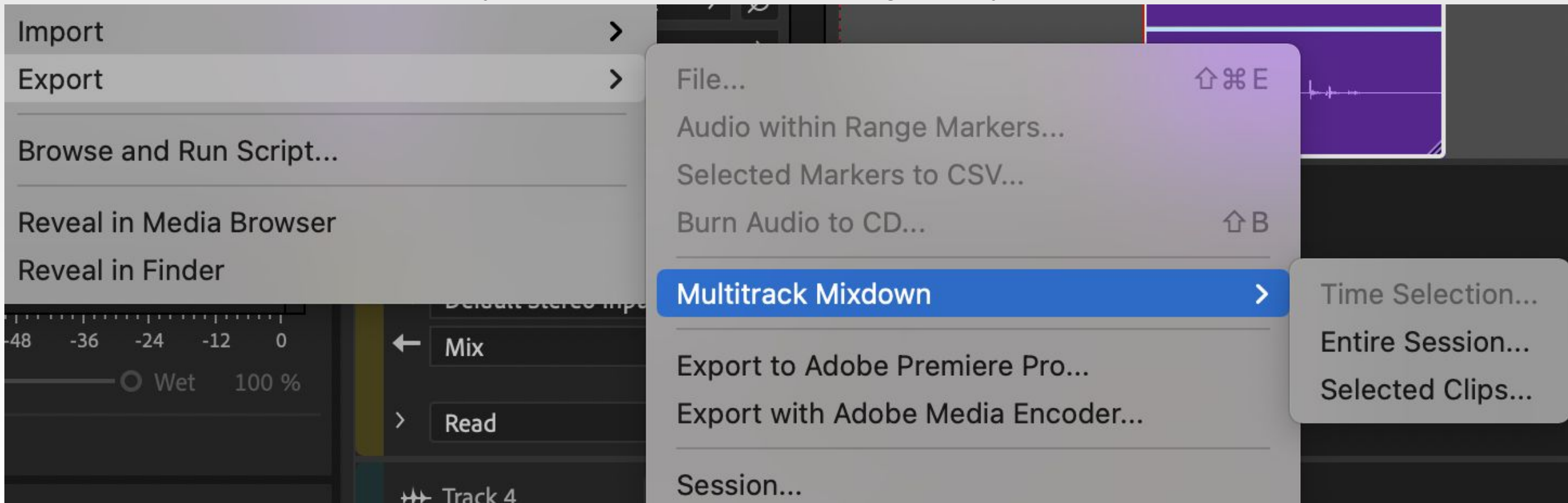
Audition offers excellent noise reduction processing. Although we won't practice with it today, I will include instructions for this processing in the materials sent to workshop participants for later reference.

Exporting Your Multitrack Project

To export your entire multitrack project as a new single file, navigate to:

File > Export > Multitrack Mixdown > Entire Session

Since this file is likely to be shared, MP3 format is generally the best choice of format.



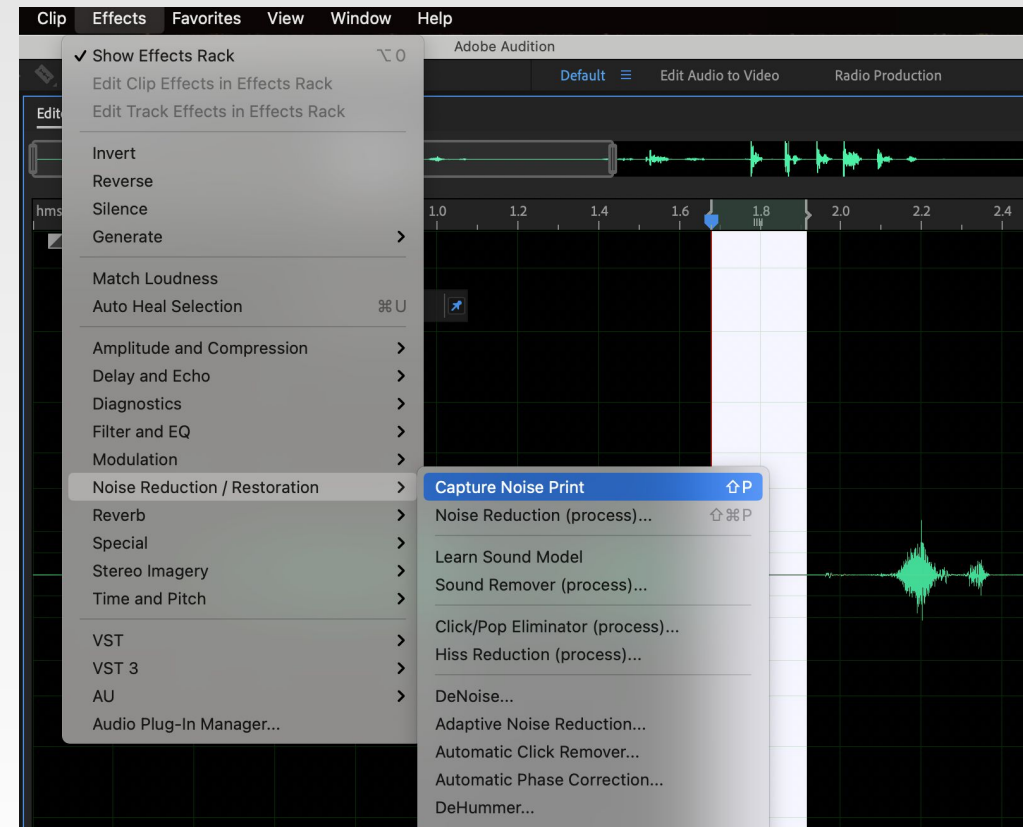
Removing Noise

It's always best to record audio in a quiet room with no background noise, but sometimes this isn't feasible. **Constant background noise** (such as hums, buzzes) can often be *reduced* but be aware that it's impossible to eliminate *all* of the undesired noise.

To reduce noise (in Waveform editing mode):

You must have at least a small section of recording that contains **only** the noise. To begin, in Waveform mode, highlight this portion of noise. From the drop-down menu at the top of the screen, select Effects>Noise Reduction/Restoration>Capture Noise Print. This shows the software what noise you wish to remove in the next step.

Note: Some noise, like **traffic** or **background conversations**, cannot be helped by noise reduction editing.



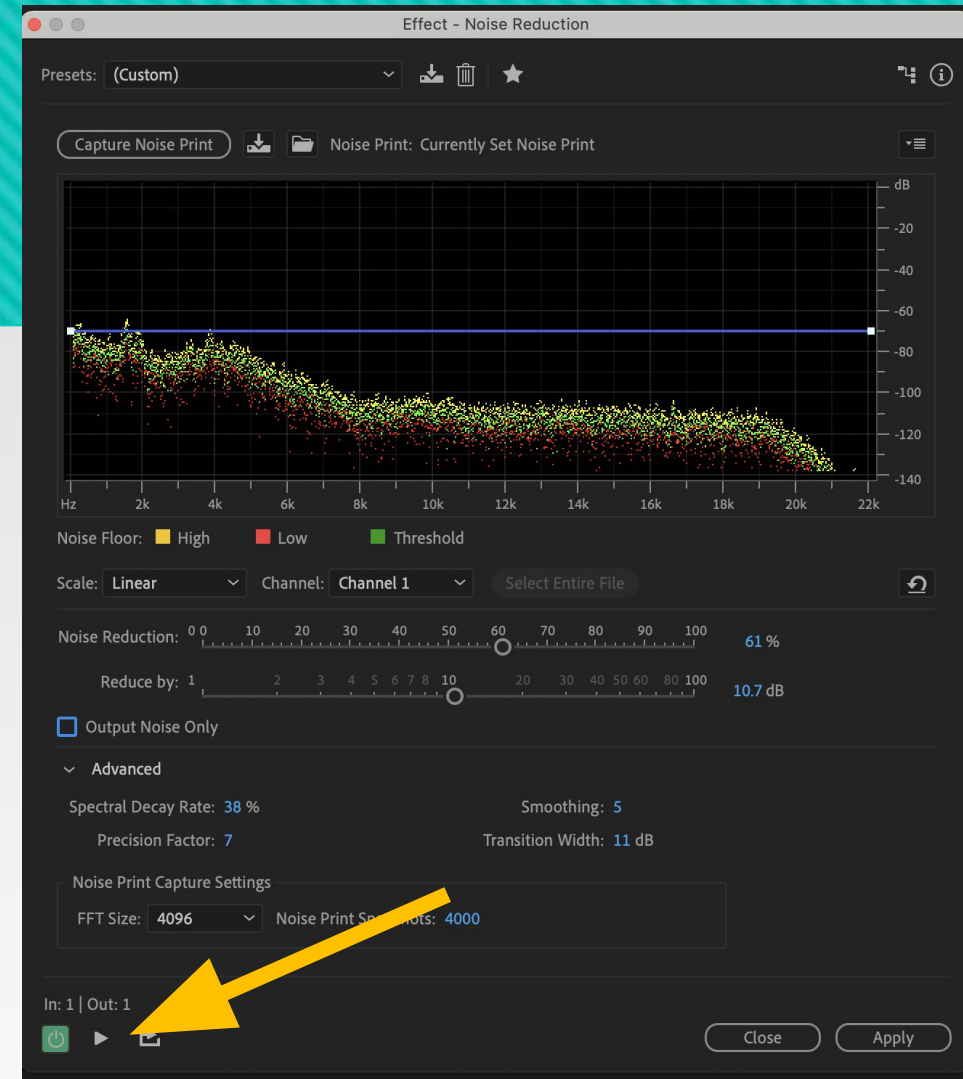
Removing Noise

Next, **select the entire clip** and navigate to Effects>Noise Reduction/Restoration>Noise Reduction (process) to open the Noise Reduction window. You will see a graph of your signal and noise, and a number of adjustable parameters. The most important adjustments are explained below, but you can hover your mouse over any blue numbers in Audition to view a description of the parameter.

Noise Reduction: Controls the overall “strength” of the noise reduction.

Reduce by: Controls how much the volume of the “noise” frequencies is reduced. Larger numbers = more reduction, but may be more damaging to the remaining audio.

It’s important to remember that there is no “best setting” for any noise reduction parameters, and you should rely on trial and error. Make a few changes, preview it, and then tweak it some more until you are happy!



Tip: There is a Play button at the bottom of the window, allowing you to preview the results. Clicking the “Output Noise Only” selection allows you to listen to what noise is being removed.

Hands On!

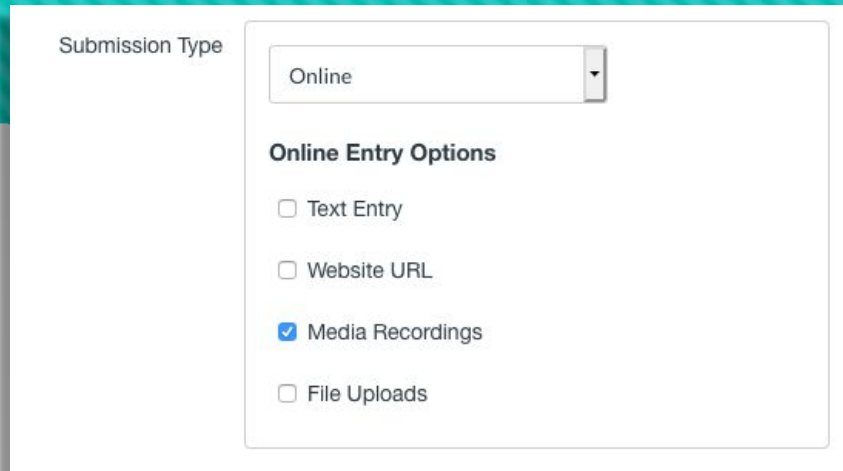
Now, let's assemble our podcast.

- Import the first piece of your podcast (intro.wav). Your other segments should still be available in the Files panel.
- Select all three audio clips in the Files panel and make a New Multitrack Session.
- Line up the clips in order in the multitrack window, using the Move Tool to align the clips horizontally.
- For each track, trim any excess silence, if there is any.
- Finally, perform a crossfade at each junction point.
 - Remember: To make a crossfade, fade out the end of the first clip and fade in the beginning of the second clip.
- Now it's time to export your finished project!

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional help.

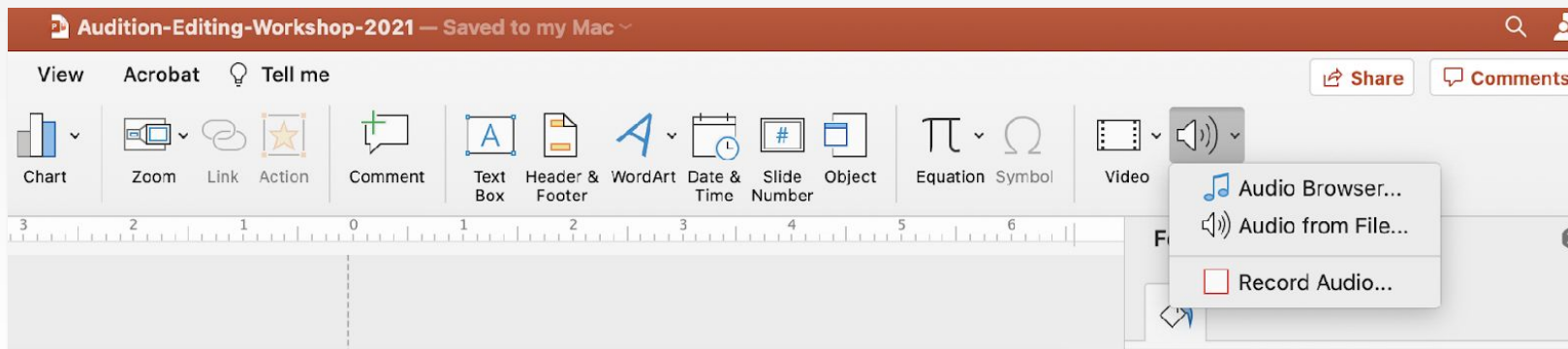
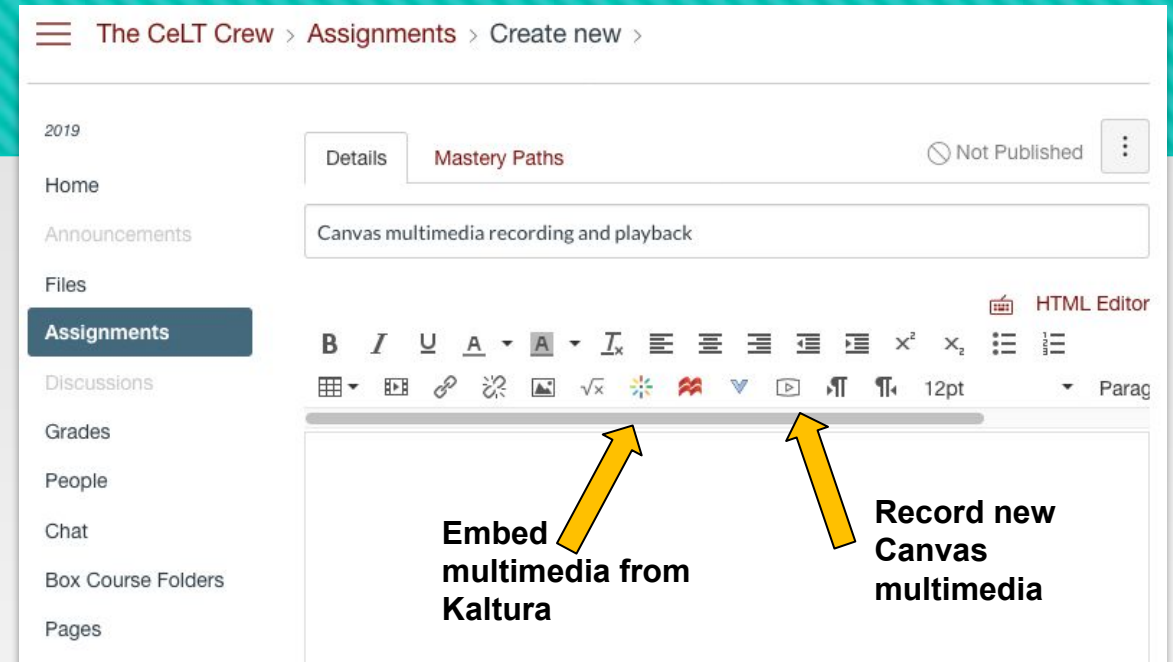
Applying Today's Knowledge

Canvas and PowerPoint



In Canvas:

- Add audio/video to a module:
- Add media to an assignment prompt
- Have students submit media as a response



In PowerPoint:

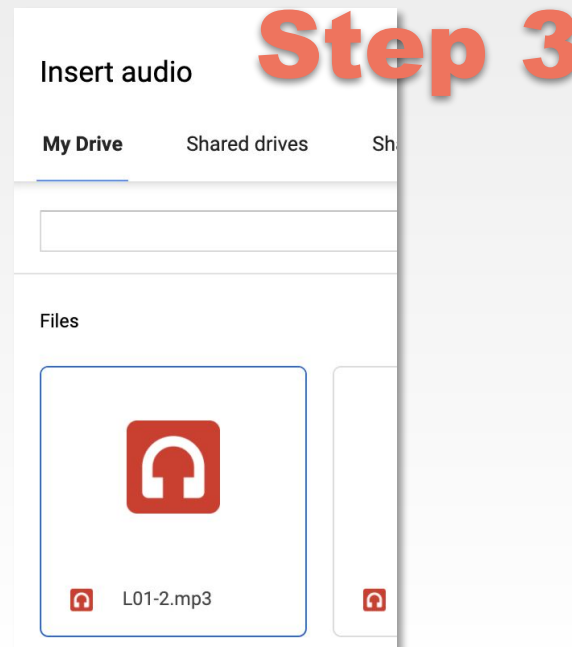
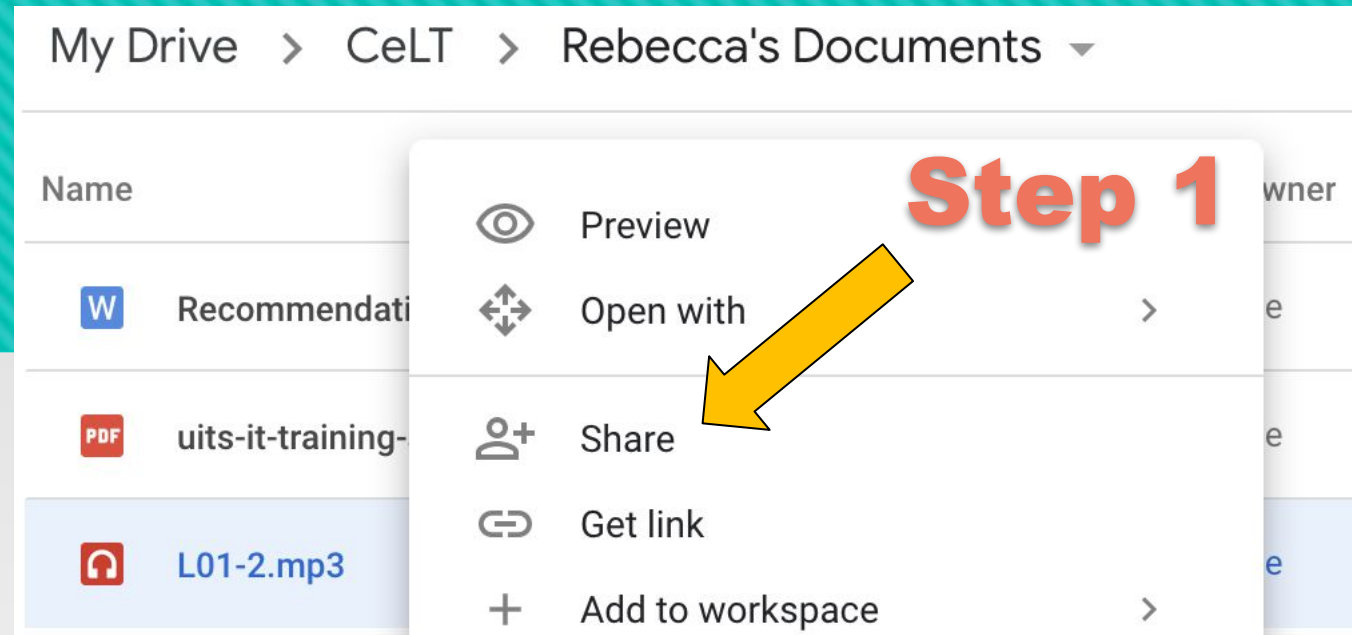
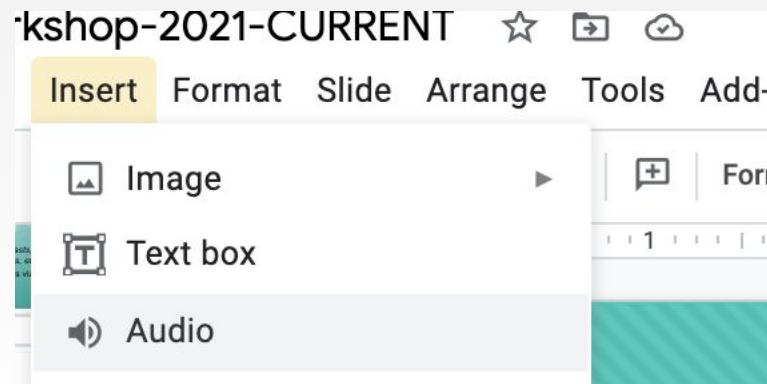
- Insert audio to play either when clicked or automatically

In Google Slides

To add narration or voice notes:

- **Step 1:** You must first upload your audio to your Box **and** *make that file shared with your presentation's audience*
- **Step 2:** Navigate to **Insert > Audio**
- **Step 3:** Choose your (already uploaded) file

Step 2



Voice typing:

- You may also use voice-to-text to type!
This tool has many supported languages.
- Navigate to **Tools > Voice typing**

CeLT Multimedia Services

- **Equipment loans**
Checkout Room BH661
 - USB headsets, external microphones, DARs, specialized phone/tablet tripods and mounts, camcorders, and more
- **Full-service professional audio and video production**
CeLT Studio Room BH114
 - High-quality professional audio/video recording (including green-screen) and editing
- **Hosting multimedia on the CeLT Language Assets Repository website**
Web Services Specialist Mintian Guo
 - Customized web hosting for your class and enrichment materials, for IU students and/or public access
- **Customized training and collaboration to help you achieve your teaching goals**
CeLT Director Xiaojing Kou

To request services, visit: <http://celt.indiana.edu>



If you have any questions about today's workshop or related topics, please contact Rebecca Ramsey at:

Email: rlmuth@indiana.edu

Phone: **812-855-0005**

Website:
<https://celt.indiana.edu/contact>

Thank you!

