Digital film school
Basic editing techniques

In this tutorial, we're going to take a look at some basic editing techniques that can be used to create your video introduction. I'm going to be using iMovie for this, but you can use these basic principles in your own editor.

As you can see, I have the edited GV's from week 0 here in my project. I'll just play through those now.

They look good. What we need to do is add my introduction after them. I've recorded an audio introduction, so I'm going to put some photos in here first.

I'll go here to browse my photos and select some... these will be perfect, so I'll drag them up...

...here they all are, as thumbnails in the project...

Let's have a look at how these photos play through.

You can see here that iMovie has automatically added some motion effects to the images, making them zoom in and out... this adds some more visual interest.

Next I need my audio piece to go with these photos.

I'll browse to my iTunes library and search for the title of my audio...

...here we go. I'm going to drag that up onto the project and position it just at the end of the last GV, so there's some overlap.

Let's play that through. You can see that my audio is represented by the green bar underneath the thumbnails.

Great, my audio is playing while those photos play.

I think I need to adjust it slightly... clicking on this icon here.

I'm going to raise the volume, as I recorded it a bit quietly.

Great, now we have that, I want some music over my GV's.

I'll browse to my iTunes library and search for my music...

...here it is. So I'll drag that up over the GV's.

And let's play that.

Oh dear, the music carries on while my audio intro is playing.. and the music is drowning it out.

What I'll do here is to trim that by going to the end of the music track and dragging it back to where I want it to end... somewhere here.

I'm also going to add some manual fades, as I know I'll need these to soften the cut.

Let's check that bit. Great!

I want to add a credit at the end here.

I'll go to the TITLE menu over here and choose a suitable title. When I drag it up, I get some options for different themes, but I just want a plain black and white one.

There we go. Now you can see the title in the preview window. You can click and edit the text here...

I'm going to add a credit for my music, but you must ensure that any necessary credits are done here.

Once I've finished my credits, I'll click DONE

Let's see how that looks.

It's ok, but I want to make it a bit longer

7 Seconds should be enough here.

You can see the updated duration here on the left of the thumbnail.

I'm going to add my music on the credits now.

...unfortunately, it's added the beginning of the music again - so I need to adjust this.

Using the CLIP TRIMMER, I'll drag the highlighted section to the end of my music track

And just adjust the position to suit me.

And I'll click DONE

Let's check that through.

It'd be nice to have some overlap here, so I'll drag the music back over here a little.

The music's drowning the other audio track out, so I need to adjust my fades on the music track.

I'll just adjust the volume too.

That sounds good, but it needs more fine trimming later.

Next I want to add a title over my GV's. I'll go to the title menu and choose a nice one...

...let's go for something a little bit more fancy this time.

And I can drag it over my GV's. Notice the thumbnails go blue when it's correctly over them.

And I'll release.

I can edit this title in the same way as before.

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The title only covers the first GV at the moment... but I can stretch that out to however long I want.

And let's play that through.

Ok, that looks pretty good. I've used some basic editing techniques in a very basic editing package here to create my intro video... why don't you have a go and see what you can create?