

Curious about Curiosity? Join the Morgan County Forum for Arts, Sciences & Technologies (**FAST**).

In 1743, Benjamin Franklin started the country's first forum where people could communicate their **records and interpretations of "all philosophical Experiments that let Light into the Nature of Things, tend to increase the Power of Man over Matter, and multiply the Conveniences or Pleasures of Life."** Then, the study of Nature that we now call science and technology was called "natural philosophy" and the club was called the American Philosophical Society.

Its members included doctors, lawyers, clergymen, merchants, artisans and tradesmen like Franklin. They helped America's economic independence by improving agriculture, manufacturing, and transportation. They also helped prepare Lewis and Clark about scientific, linguistic, and anthropological aspects of their exploration of the Louisiana Territory.

In 2003, the Morgan County Forum for Arts, Sciences and Technologies (**FAST**) began community discussions to help all Morgan County residents find ways to **"let Light into the Nature of Things, tend to increase the Power of Man over Matter, and multiply the Conveniences or Pleasures of Life."**

FAST is now a tax-exempt, non-profit charitable corporation under IRS Code, Section 501(c)(3). It is supported by grants, donations, membership dues, and other income related to its purpose. Its primary mission is informal education to advance the use of arts, sciences and technologies in the daily lives of individuals in Morgan County.

The Very Short Video Contest is one of a series of informal educational events to advance the use of arts, sciences and technologies in the daily lives of individuals in Morgan County. It encourages young and old people to work together to apply aspects of human arts and electronic technologies in interpreting the reality around us.

FAST also supports community band and theater projects, discussions on nutrition, health and computer technology; the "*Morgan County Menus*" booklet; the Great Gray Matter Challenge; Song Writing Contest Awards; Very Short Video Contest Awards; the County Fair **FAST** Learning Room; plus a wide range of informal learning experiences, including advanced training.

Families are invited to plan ideas now for novel informative video exhibits for the 2010 County Fair Exhibit Contest when over \$1,300.00 in prizes will again be awarded.

Please send donations (tax-exempt) to **FAST**,
P.O. Box 674, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411.

Visit the **FAST** website at <http://www.fastlearner.org>
or contact us at wemlands@att.net



Coaching Notes

for LEARNERS who teach
and TEACHERS who learn



using very short videos
with novel, informative facts

Producing and Editing Focused Short Messages
that show facts with BOTH substance and style

Collected ideas from
Brice Williams, Shamus Cleveland & Bill Lands

Video coaching workshops hosted by
Morgan County Forum for Arts, Sciences & Technologies
(**FAST**) in collaboration with the Morgan County Library and the
Morgan Arts Council

Useful names, terms, formats & ideas

(More details with "Search" at <http://en.wikipedia.org/>)

Audio track is half of the audio-visual (AV) digital coded message

AVI = common format for videos

Camcorder captures audio-visual info in digital electronic formats

CD - compact disc; stores digital music, photos and files

Clip art free at <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/clipart/default.aspx>

Codec = coder-decoder or compression-decompression program for converting audio and video digital signal formats. See Wikipedia for "List of codecs" & "Comparison of container formats"

DVD = digital format for audiovisual discs

Encoder = software compressing data to use fewer bits

Export & Import converts digital files to new file formats

File format - .divx is common media format supporting DVD; xvid; etc.

Garage Band has codec parameters for editing audio tracks

iDVD sets codec parameters to convert videos for 'burning' to DVD

iLife is a collection of Mac communication software

iMovie HD is regarded as more user-friendly than the new iMovie

iWork is a collection of Mac communication software

JPEG

Keynote is the Mac analog of PowerPoint that PCs use

Pixel is an electronic measure of display screen size

PowerPoint (PPT) makes simple animated slide shows on PCs

PresenterSoft PowerVideoMaker converts PPT file to video format

QuickTime Pro manages codec for movie/video in Mac formats

Screen capture software makes videos from screen displays

Story board = sequence of scenes to blend into a larger movie

VGA

Video clips short scenes to blend into a larger movie

Video file formats = .avi; .mov; .wmv; etc.

Windows MovieMaker edits video clips

Examples of 30-120 second videos are displayed on DVD kiosks at the Morgan County Library

Helpful Morgan County computer experts:

(PC) Mike Sisenstein - <http://www.mike-thecomputerguy.com/>

(Mac) Jim Hoyt - <http://www.cacapongroup.com/>

Step-by-step work flow

A.- PLAN EFFICIENT 'TAKE-HOME' MESSAGE - - - - PAGE 4

- 1.- set **goals**, scene sequences and scripts for target audience (paper and pencil)
- 2.- form '**story-board**' with paper & pencil or PowerPoint
- 3.- form a detailed **narrative** script with paper & pencil. Rehearse it!
- 4.- design **animation** for each 'scene'; paper & pencil or PowerPoint.

B.- MAKE ELECTRONIC VERSION OF MESSAGE - - - - PAGE 5

- 5.- Combine **recorded** narrative with Power Point or video media to check timing & effectiveness of the informative message
- 6.- **Revisions** of scene timing or sequence can be done by 're-takes' as in step 5.
- 7.- Ask a friend if the combined audiovisual effect is interesting.
- 8.- Convert PPT to wmv with **Screen Recording Software** to convert to video format (**CHOOSE FORMAT**)

C.- EDIT AND FOCUS 'TAKE-HOME' MESSAGE - - - - PAGE 6

- 9.- Import video-formatted **DEFINE FORMAT** show into Windows MovieMaker or iMovie
- 10.- early **editing can be done BEST** with Windows MovieMaker, QuickTime Pro or iMovie

D.- CONVERT FILE TO PRESENTATION FORMAT - - - - PAGE 7

- 11.- Final conversion of show into a **DEFINED FORMAT** suited for uploading to internet or to DVD
- 12.- Enjoy!!

The goal is a novel informative story that concisely, coherently and effectively helps the target audience enjoy understanding.

Think about what makes a good museum **GOOD**.

What stimulates curiosity? **HOW** can we build learning on it?

A.- PLAN EFFICIENT 'TAKE-HOME' MESSAGE

Pick a topic that interests you and 'tweak' it into a focused novel informative message. Tweaking is a major teaching tool - - - paraphrase, paraphrase, paraphrase!! New words, music or lighting can make old facts more interesting.

Focusing is the toughest part of this project. 'Brainstorm' with others to find effective words and scenes. Make 'old dull' facts interesting by a short informative novel story. Your very short video can help other people learn faster.

The DICTIONARY, INTERNET BROWSER and LIBRARY are filled with opportunities to learn novel and informative facts.

- 1- form **goals** (take-home ideas), scene sequences and scripts for each story by just using paper and pencil.

- 2.- form **story-boards** for detailed story sequence with PowerPoint, Keynote and/or paper and pencil.

- 3.- form **narrative** scripts in detail with paper & pencil. Rehearse!

- 4.- design **animation** for each 'scene' with PowerPoint, Keynote and/or paper and pencil.

Ask friends, neighbors, relatives, librarians, teachers, wikipedia, google, etc. for ideas to convert into effective short infomercials on 'cool' novel, informative facts.

B.- MAKE ELECTRONIC VERSION OF MESSAGE

5.- "Voiceover" narratives can be **recorded** onto Power Point or Keynote slides and video clips to check timing & effectiveness. External microphones often give cleaner sound capture. PPT allows adjusted times for animation & slide transition

6.- **Revisions** of scene timing or sequence can be done by 're-takes' as in step 5.

7.- Ask a friend if your story gives new interesting facts. Ask friends, neighbors, relatives, librarians, teachers, wikipedia, google, etc. for ideas to convert into effective short "infomercials" on 'cool' novel, informative facts.

8.- Ask Shamus about screen capture of PPT (define **Screen Recording Software**) to convert to video format
CamStudio is screen capture for PCs
Ambrosia Snapz Pro X is screen capture for Macs

PresenterSoft PowerVideo Maker software for PCs can convert animated, narrated PowerPoint shows to video formats

Keystone (Mac) slide shows can convert to iMovies

C.- EDIT AND FOCUS 'TAKE-HOME' MESSAGE

9.- Import video-formatted **DEFINE FORMAT** show into Windows MovieMaker, QuickTime Pro or iMovie to arrange the codec and file format useful for editing

10.- **editing can be done** with PC - Windows MovieMaker

or MAC - iMovie (video) plus Garage Band (audio)

Mac editing may also be with "Final Cut Express" or "Flash"

Ask Shamus about 'sensible' PC editing software:

Pinnacle Studio 12 is a great program

(<http://www.pinnaclesys.com/PublicSite/us/Products/Consumer+Products/Home+Video/Studio+Family/>)

Nero 9 has many video production tools

ArcSoft - ShowBiz

D.- CONVERT EDITED FILE TO PRESENTATION FORMAT

11.- Final conversion of show into **DEFINED FORMAT** with codec suited for uploading to internet or to DVD

DVDxDVPro software from SWREG can extract video clips from DVD disc to rearrange into QuickTime for revised videos in iMovie format

12.- Publish in a compatible codec and format - - - and enjoy!
All video formats will need to be converted into DVD format for final burning onto DVD discs to play in DVD players.

Mac software for burning to DVD

iDVD uses QuickTime video formats

PC software for burning to DVD

- Nero-9 (<http://www.nero.com/enu/nero9-introduction.html>).

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external DVD burners can go to different places easily and connect to any computer or laptop via USB 2.0.

(example: http://www.amazon.com/18x-External-Samsung-DVD%C2%B1RWdrive/dp/B000Q01YUO/ref=tag_tdp_ptcn_edp_p_url)