



# Creating Animoto Digital Projects

Animoto is a dynamic video creator which takes still pictures and video clips and make professional quality videos. You can use it as a project based learning tool in much the same manner as Photo Story or Pixie.

***Animoto for Education*** – Animoto allows teachers to have full access to their features which would otherwise cost money. Registering for Animoto as a teacher also gives you a link to register student accounts. All student accounts require an email. Elementary teachers will want to use [Google](#) to create “dummy” email accounts and then create the accounts for each student. Click [here](#) for an explanation on how to set this up.

1. Go to [https://animoto.com/sign\\_up](https://animoto.com/sign_up) and register a free account.
2. Then, go to <http://animoto.com/education/apply>
3. Complete the registration form for an educator’s free PLUS account. With this account you can create student accounts.

When the registration is complete, you will be able to access Animoto as a free user, but not register students until you get a confirmation email of an “All Access” account. It may take several days for the confirmation to arrive.

**NOTE:** When the confirmation email arrives, it will contain a special code to use when registering. You will need to use this special registration code when creating student accounts or they will not have an “All Access” account.

The screenshot shows a registration form with the following fields and options:

- Email address: tbollino+student1@gmail.com
- Password: [Redacted]
- Confirm password: [Redacted]
- Student First name: [Redacted]
- Student Last name: One
- Date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy): 01/01/1995
- Gender:  Male  Female
- Do you have a promo/referral code? (Expanded section)
  - Enter Code: A4EApril2011
- Sign Up button
- Terms and conditions: I have read and agree to the [terms of service](#) and [privacy policy](#).

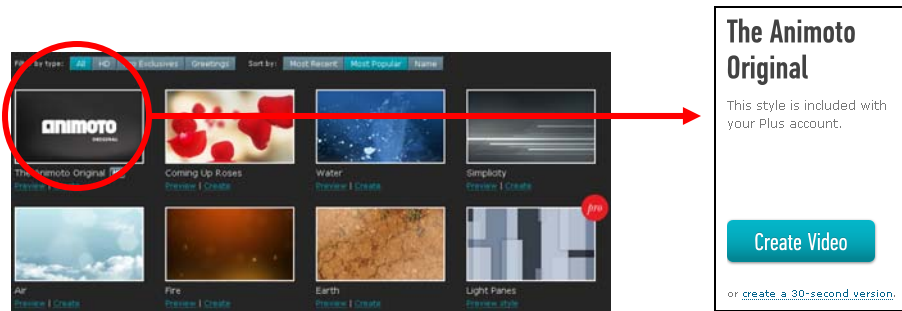
**NOTE:** When the All-Access account is about to expire, you will need to “reapply” for a new code. You will need to re-enter the code for each of the student accounts as well. See the handout “Renewing Student Animoto Accounts.”

## Creating an Animoto Video

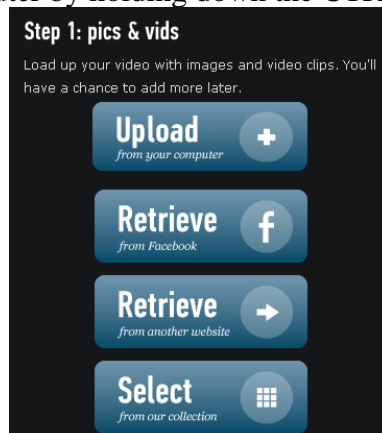
1. After logging into Animoto, click the big blue Create Video button.



2. You will be asked to select a style for your video. Not all styles are available to the “All-Access” users. Some are marked “Pro” and not available. Select the style and you can see an example of the style. If you like that style, click “Create Video.”



3. Then select what type of video you want to create. All users can create the 30-second video. Once your “All Access” account is set up, you will be able to choose “full-length.”
4. You will now be asked to upload images and/or video for your project. There are three options (Facebook from school is not an option). You can upload multiple files from your computer by holding down the CTRL key as you select the files.



**Note:** You must choose to download the Quick Time version of a video segment from Discovery Streaming if you plan to use it in Animoto. If you already have downloaded the .asp (Windows Media File) then you will need to convert it using Windows Movie Maker to .WMV.

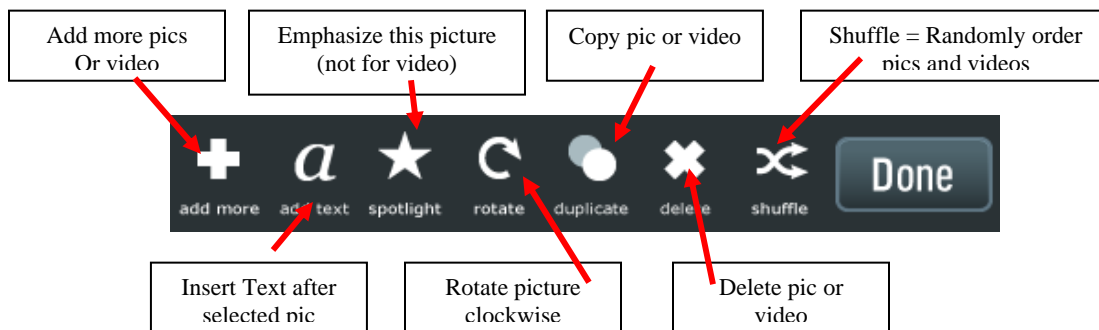
### Free Picture and Video Sites for use with Education

There are many places to find pictures for use with an educational project. Some of them include the following sites.

Created by Instructional Technology Services Department  
Frederick County Public Schools, Maryland  
Created on 10/15/2009 12:35:00 PM

- <http://www.Pics4Learning.com> – Free photos to use for multimedia projects.
- <http://commons.wikimedia.org> – Wikipedia’s image files are stored here and most of the pictures are copyright friendly.
- <http://www.flickr.com> – Use the advance search feature to find pictures which have been granted permission to use copyright free.
- <http://www.freedigitalphotos.net> – Free Digital Photos.net allows you to have free low-res photos which are perfect for multimedia projects.
- <http://www.freefoto.com/> - Free Foto allows you to use their pictures for free provided you credit the site.
- <http://streaming.discoveryeducation.com> – Discovery Education will allow you to use their pictures and videos provided you adhere to their terms of use found at this link:  
<http://www.discoveryeducation.com/aboutus/terms-of-use/streaming.cfm>
- <http://www.freestockfootage.com> – Free Stock Footage allows free use of their low resolution video stock and images.

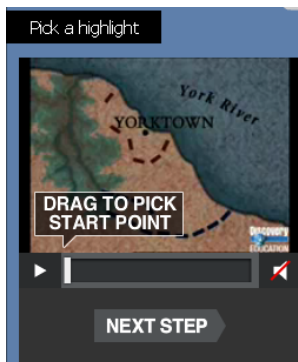
When you have uploaded your pictures and/or video clips you will have a toolbar at the bottom of the page. Click on a picture or video and select one of the toolbar options.



### Reordering your pictures and videos

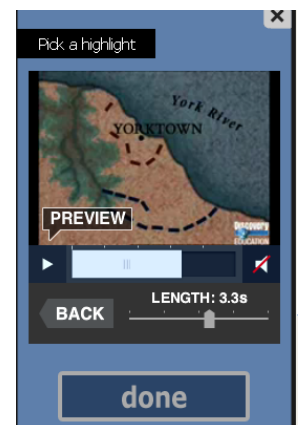
You can simply drag and drop your pictures or videos to reorder them in the Image gallery. You can also click the “Shuffle” button on the toolbar to randomly order your pictures and videos.

### Highlighting Video Clips



Animoto allows for up to 10 seconds of any video to be played. If you have a video that is longer than 10 seconds, you can highlight any portion of that video clip (up to ten seconds) to be shown in the finished project. If you wish to have other parts of that video clip shown, upload another copy of that clip and highlight a different part of the clip.

1. Click on a video clip you wish to highlight. A larger version of the clip will be shown off to the



- right of the screen.
2. Press the play button until you find the beginning of the section of the video you wish to highlight.
  3. Click “Next Step.”
  4. Next, you can increase or decrease the length of the highlighted section, up to 10 second.
  5. Click “Done” so save the changes.

## ***Adding Text to the Video***

You can add a frame of text to help enhance the information you are trying to convey. To add text, simply click on the picture or video clip *before* you want the text to appear and click the “Add Text” button on the toolbar. The text box will appear right after that clip. On the right side of the screen, type the text you wish to appear.

**Note:** The number of text characters is limited to 22 on Main Text line and 30 characters on the subtext line. The main text line will be larger than the subtext.

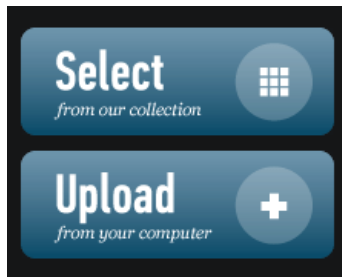


When finished, click the DONE button to the right of the toolbar.

**Note:** Once the video is saved, Animoto will allow you to close the web browser and finish your video later. When you click on “Create Video,” Animoto will ask you if you wish to continue with your last saved video or start a new one. You will LOSE the video if you start a new one.

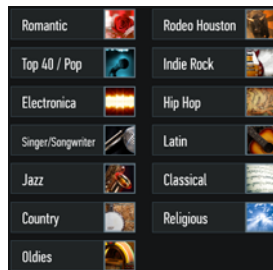
## ***Selecting Music for the Animoto Video***

Once you have arranged all the pictures, video, and text in the order in which you want them to appear, you can select music to go with the show. Click the DONE button next to the toolbar. Your video will be saved and you will be presented with options for your music.



## Using the Animoto Music Collection

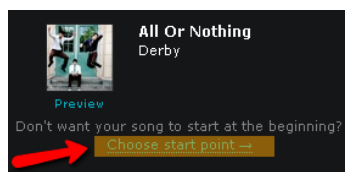
You can upload your own music for your video in MP3 format, or you can select from the Animoto selection. There are several genres of music to choose from. All music has the artists' permission to use their music.



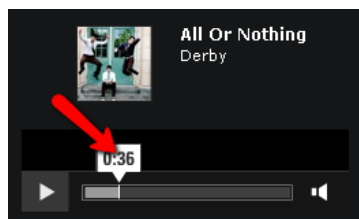
Browse the collection by genre. If you click the Play button next to a music track, you can hear a sample. When you are satisfied with the music selection, you can click the "Select" button to add it to your video.



After you select your music, you will have the option to select the starting point in the track for playback.



Use the slider to choose the start point. Click the Play button to hear what it will sound like.



Click the Continue button when done.

## Free Music Tracks

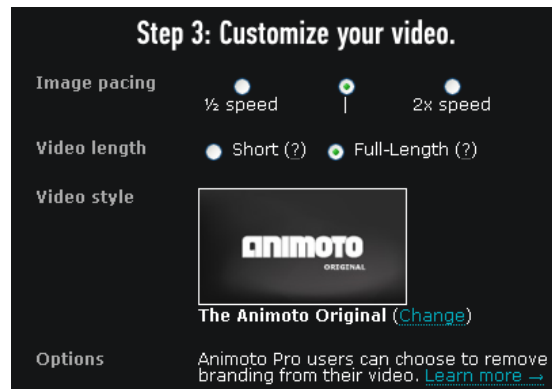
There are many sites which allow Creative Commons use of music. Since the music is not always appropriate, you should preview the music before using it in your video.

- Jamendo - <http://www.jamendo.com/en/>
- Dmusic - <http://dmusic.com/>
- Opsound - <http://www.opsound.org/>
- Sound Click - <http://www.soundclick.com/>

## Customizing your video

The final step is to customize your video playback. You will have two options. First, choose if you wish the image and video pacing to be ½ speed, normal speed, or 2x speed.

- ½ speed can be used if you have few pictures and videos but a long music track that you wish to be heard
- Normal speed would play the pictures and videos back at the default
- 2x speed would be used if you have many pictures and videos, but a shorter soundtrack.



You can change your video style as well. Click the “Change” link

When you are done, click the “Continue” button.

## Enter Video Information

Enter the information about your video project on the next screen. You can click the left or right arrows next to the thumbnail image to choose the image that will display when the video loads (but is not playing). Click “Create Video.” Your video will take several minutes to create. You will see a progress screen and you will get an email when it is done with a link. You can close the web browser if you want.

The image shows a form for entering video information. It has three text input fields: 'Title' with the text 'My First Animoto', 'Description' with the text 'This is the first Animoto I have made.', and 'Producer Name' with the text 'Tony Bollino'. To the right of the form is a 'Thumbnail' selection area showing a red octagonal stop sign with the word 'STOP' in white. There are left and right arrows next to the thumbnail image.