

## Making a Stop Motion Video

Stop motion photography is one of the oldest forms of animation. It's done by taking a picture, making a slight change in the subject matter, taking another picture, making another change and so on until what you have is a video that makes it look as though an inanimate object is moving. Even cartoons are nothing more than stop motion photography, though the changes are so subtle that the movement looks fluid. We're not trying to achieve such an effect, however. What we want is for your subject matter to appear to move across the screen. What that subject matter is is entirely up to you. Let your imagination run wild. In stop motion video, there are no rules as to what can be animated. Follow the guidelines below and you shouldn't have any trouble making your own stop motion movie.

1. Choose your subject matter
  - a. Great stop motion video has been made using common everyday items like clay, Legos, and construction paper. Even pencils and other office supplies can make a fun and entertaining stop motion video. The point is you can use anything to make a great stop motion video.
2. Download and complete the Presentation Organization Storyboard.
  - a. Use the storyboard to line up your shots. What do you want your materials to do in your video. Remember, the difference between a great project and a good one is having something for your items to do rather than just move around. They should tell a story or deliver a message.
  - b. Don't try to line up every shot on the storyboard. Just the high points. You can get from one shot to the next through the animation.
3. Do you need an app?
  - a. You should not need to download an app for your iPad to complete this assignment. Your camera feature and iMovie are all you will need. If you choose to download an app, there are several free apps that will work well with this project. They also work well with the time lapse project as well.
4. Stabilize your camera or iPad.
  - a. You cannot hold your iPad or camera steady enough to be successful in this project. In this project, jerkiness is a very bad thing. It has to be steady throughout the shoot. Use a tripod for a camera or some other method to stabilize the iPad.
  - b. Keep externals out of the camera shots. If you are shooting down to the floor, keep your feet out of the shots. Look carefully at what is in the field of view before you take each picture.
5. Don't Rush It
  - a. This is a very time-consuming project. Don't rush it! If you do, it will show in your end product and affect your grade. The only way to do this right is to do it patiently.
6. Load your photos into iMovie

- a. Open iMovie and create a new project
  - b. Set your frames per second to a slower value so that your movie will not rush through the action. Leave pause time between each frame so the video flows at the pace you want. (Note: You can also adjust the timing by taking more shots of each setup. Ex. 2 to 3 shots rather than 1)
7. Find your soundtrack
  - a. Find a musical soundtrack for your video from Creative Commons.
  - b. You can also find sound effects for your video (splats, laughs, car sounds, etc.) on Creative Commons as well.
  - c. Sound effects are tricky. If you use them, make sure they align with the correct image. The Star Wars Lego videos are good examples of sound effect and voice-over placement.
8. Export your video to your home folder and drop it into the dropbox. Make sure your name is in the filename.
9. Have fun