

Student Skill Activity:

How to Create a Multimedia Presentation

Why Learn This Skill?

You want to present a research report and you want to hold an audience's attention. How do you do it? You might try using a variety of media. Combining different media can make your presentation more interesting and engaging for an audience.

Learning the Skill

A basic multimedia presentation combines several types of media. Suppose you wanted to present a report on Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. To introduce the subject, you might start by displaying a map showing U.S. territories and Japanese advances in the Pacific. You also could play an audio recording of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "date which will live in infamy" speech, or show historic film footage of the attack.

You can also develop a multimedia presentation on a computer. Multimedia, as it relates to computer technology, is the combination of text, video, audio, and animation in an interactive program.

To create multimedia presentations on a computer, you need to have certain tools. These may include traditional computer graphics tools, draw programs, animation programs, and presentation software or an authoring system to tie everything together.

Practicing the Skill

Before you prepare your multimedia presentation, ask yourself the following questions:

1. Which forms of media do I want to include? Video? Sound? Animation? Photographs? Graphics?
2. Which of these media forms does my computer support?
3. What kinds of software programs or systems do I need? A paint program? A draw program? An animation program? A program to create interactive, or two-way, communication? An authoring system that will allow me to change images, sound, and motion?
4. Is there a "do-it-all" program I can use to develop the kind of presentation I want?

Applying the Skill

Using your answers to the questions above as guidelines, write a plan describing a multimedia presentation about the Cold War. Indicate the tools you will need and what steps you must take to prepare a successful presentation.