

Photo Story: Tips and Troubleshooting

Uploading multiple pictures: You can upload more than one picture at a time into your photo story. Just hold down the CTRL key while clicking all the photos you want to include.

Length of narration: Match each picture to your narration. Keep in mind that your picture will show as long as you are narrating. So, if you speak for two minutes, the picture will show for two minutes. Similarly, the narration must be broken up by picture – it will not run throughout the entire photo story.

Making changes: If you would like to add more pictures, add music, change the narration, etc., be sure that you open the editable photo story file. The extension should be .wp3. You must have saved your photo story at least once before finalizing it. Just open the .wp3 file to make any changes.

Picture Quality: Be sure you are using high quality pictures for your photo story – at least 500 pixels wide. If you are searching for images on the internet, this is the number that comes first.

Motion and Transitions: While it's fun to play with these tools, use them creatively and appropriately in order to make an impressive photo story. Don't just start and end the motion anywhere – it will be obvious that you spent little time thinking about it. Instead, focus on the motion to end on someone's face or some focal point of the picture.

Finalizing: In order for your photo story to play in Windows Media, you must make the last saving step. On the "Adding Background Music" screen, click next, and that will enable you to save your photo story as a .wmv file, which is viewable on any computer that has Windows Media Player (and most do).

Music: There are two easy options – one is to choose one of the sample music clips, and the other is to "create" your music using the options in photo story. If you have music on a CD, it will have to be converted. You can download a converter at <http://www.nch.com.au/switch/plus.html>. Your file must be a .wma, .wav, or mp3 to work in Photo Story. Music from your ipod may or may not work depending on the type of file and copyright protection. If you have trouble, come see us in the media center.

Volume Levels: You may need to adjust the music volume levels to accommodate your narration. To do this, simply click the picture in the filmstrip and then adjust the music volume using the volume slider bar. You may need to adjust the volume and preview your story a few times to get it just right.

Photo Story at Home: Windows Photo Story 3 is a free download. Go to <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/photostory/default.mspx>

For more information, try Microsoft's FAQ page about photostory: <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/photostory/faq.mspx>