

HIGH SCHOOL VIDEO AWARD



FRIENDS OF THE
PETALUMA RIVER



Watershed Classroom



USING MUSIC AND SOUND IN YOUR VIDEO

Copyright Law:

Due to copyright laws, there are currently no “public domain” music recordings. This means that in order to use any recording you must...

- A. Record the music yourself
- B. Have direct permission from the artist OR
- C. Purchase rights to that song.

Remember! Purchasing or downloading music does not automatically give you the rights to use it in a film! It must be “royalty free!”

Sound effects, however, can sometimes be public domain. It is ok to use public domain sound effects in your film.

Make Your Own Music or Sound

This is an option. You are free to use your own recordings in the video. Be sure that anything you record is high quality as low quality recordings will affect your score. You must cite yourself in your sources cited on the entry form.

Note: Music recorded must be original. Even reproductions of songs are still covered by copyright law.

Getting Permission from the Artist

You are welcome to use music or sound effects recorded by friends or acquaintances in your video. If you do this please be prepared to provide a written statement of permission from the artist as we may request this for winning submissions.

Purchasing Songs and Sounds: Royalty Free

There are a number of websites which will let you purchase what is called “Royalty Free” music or sounds, some are even free for non-commercial use. Royalty Free music and sound is not quite public domain because it is typically not free. However, if you purchase music or sound which is Royalty Free, you do not have to pay for it every time you use it in a video.

This is not the same as websites which offer free downloads of music! Owning a song to listen to is not the same as owning it to use in videos. Music that you download must be “royalty free” for you to use it in your video.

Public Domain Sound Effects

While there is no public domain music, the rules for sound effects are a little different. Some websites have public domain sound effects available to download for free. You may also purchase “royalty free” sound effects. Make sure to read usage rights carefully when downloading free sound effects to make sure they are public domain or that the artist has given permission for their sounds to be used in videos.