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Music: A Way to Jazz up Your Presentations

One of the most interesting ways to make your educational presentations more attractive and meaningful is to add music. Think of it in terms of music for the soul and the brain. For one thing, music can be used to invite your participants to your presentation. In another way, music can help clarify an idea or issue by triggering emotional and cognitive responses that mere print and voice cannot.

In many cases, faculty include audio in presentations created with such tools as PowerPoint and Keynote. In other ways, they add audio tracks to CD-ROMs and DVD that they are creating for educational purposes. Whatever the reason or tools used, we should keep in mind what we can use legally for such purposes. Many faculty use commercial music in their presentations, but they are limited in how much they can use according to fair use. (15 seconds is a reasonable estimate of allowable music for educational purposes.)

Here's a tip! Don't let copyright issues hold you back. There are great alternatives to using commercial music. For example, WBGU TV offers faculty and students unlimited use of royalty free music from their media website at <http://wbgutv-music.bgsu.edu/>. This media site is a treasure chest for faculty who want to expand their use of audio for presentations and educational uses. And here is the best part: You are not limited under fair use in terms of the amount used...as long as it is for educational purposes.

Another way to get royalty free music is to create a library of free music loops so that you can build your own music for whatever purposes you have in mind. CTLT will be offering such workshops in the future to demo and instruct faculty how to build their own "looped" music for future projects. CTLT will also be making available music loops so that you can create your own music tracks.

If you have any questions regarding this tip, please feel contact us for more information.