**Recorded Read Aloud Project**

Sample Assignment: Read Aloud Video

# Overview

You will produce a read aloud video appropriate for students in kindergarten, first, second, and/or third grade. Your final video will be added to the Read Aloud Catalogue and shared with United Way of Central Georgia for dissemination to educators and parents in Middle Georgia.

# Purpose

The purpose of this assignment is for you to synthesize what you have learned in this class to provide an engaging reading experience for elementary-aged children in Middle Georgia. Your video should include an introduction of yourself and the book. You should then read the entire book while incorporating effective practices discussed in class. Your finished video will be added to the Read Aloud Catalogue and shared with United Way of Central Georgia for dissemination to educators and parents in Middle Georgia.

# Requirements

Your video should:

* Have clear sound and video,
* Include a friendly introduction to yourself and the book,
* Show the cover of the book,
* Mention the title, author, and illustrator of the book with correct pronunciation,
* Show the text of the book while you are reading,
* Give sufficient time for viewers to look at illustrations, and
* Include subtitles for accessibility (YouTube now lets you add subtitles to a video once it is uploaded. [For instructions on subtitling in YouTube Studio, click here](https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2734796?hl=en&ref_topic=7296214).)

Finished videos should be uploaded to YouTube as “unlisted,” and the link should be shared with your instructor when you submit this assignment.

# Recommended Software and Technology

**Video** **and Audio Recording**

We strongly recommend [recording to the cloud in Zoom](https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/203741855-cloud-recording). You can [adjust your recording settings in your Zoom account](https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/360060316092-Cloud-recording-settings) so that you have separate video files for the speaker screen, the screen share view, and a combined screen share with speaker in a small window. You can also download a separate audio file for editing.

If you don’t have access to a microphone that supports quality audio recordings on your computer, try using the voice recorder on your cell phone. You can run the voice recorder on your cell phone simultaneously with your video recording on Zoom so that the files are easy to sync in editing.

**Video Editing**

Your computer may already have a video editing software such as iMovie. If you do not already have access to a video editing software, we recommend the following free options:

* **Camtasia free trial** - <https://www.techsmith.com/video-editor.html>

For a brief tutorial on how to use Camtasia, [check out this video from Professor Frani Rollins](https://youtu.be/De6MIoZAg0Y).

* **Minitool MovieMaker Free** - <https://moviemaker.minitool.com/>

For step-by-step instructions on how to use this software, [click here](https://moviemaker.minitool.com/moviemaker/use-movie-maker.html).

**Audio Editing**

You may not need to edit your audio separately, but if you want to you can try [Audacity](https://www.audacityteam.org/), a free open source audio editing tool. A popular beginner’s guide tutorial video is [available here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aCisC3sHneM).

**Video Publishing**

Finished videos should be published on your personal YouTube account as “unlisted.” If you have a Gmail or Google account, you automatically have a YouTube account. If you do not, you’ll need to create one.

For instructions on how to upload videos to YouTube, [click here](https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/57407?hl=en&co=GENIE.Platform%3DDesktop).

# Read Aloud Tutorials with Professor Frani Rollins

In collaboration with Professor Frani Rollins in the Department of Communication Studies and Theatre, we created a series of tutorial videos to support high quality engagement between Mercer students participating in literacy initiatives and the children they support. These videos are appropriate resources for students engaging in virtual tutoring or the recorded read aloud project. Video topics include:

* + Tips for Reading Out Loud (7 min 30 sec)
  + Lighting for Online Recordings (1 min 30 sec)
  + Making your Book Look Good Online (4 min 50 sec)
  + How to Frame Your Book on Screen (5 min)
  + Free Video Editing Software (6 min 30 sec)

[Click here to access the tutorial series.](https://cel.mercer.edu/faculty-and-staff-resources/educational-resources/)