The Digital Classroom-Animoto For Education

Animoto is an awesome site that allows you to create custom, professional-looking videos from digital pictures. You could use it for introducing a unit of study, book talks, year-end celebrations; you are only limited by what you can create. Anyone can sign up for an account and create free, 30 second videos. Educators can apply for an Education account, which allows you to create full-length videos with music.

This guide will walk you through the sign-up process and show you, step-by-step, how to create your first video in a matter of moments.

1) Sign-Up

• Enter the address http://animoto.com into your web browser.



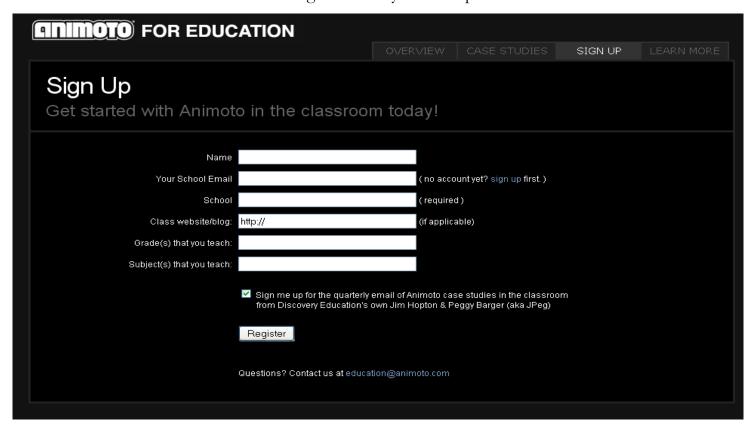
• Here is what you see. At the bottom, click *For Education* (1).



• If you want to learn more about the site click *Learn More* (1). If you are ready to sign-up click *Sign-Up* (2).



• On The Sign-Up page fill out the required information. Be sure to use your school email address. (This is how they verify you are an educator.) It normally takes 24 hours for them to get back to you so be patient.



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While you are waiting for your account to be verified check out the tips on using Animoto in your classroom and also check out the case studies to see how others are using Animoto.

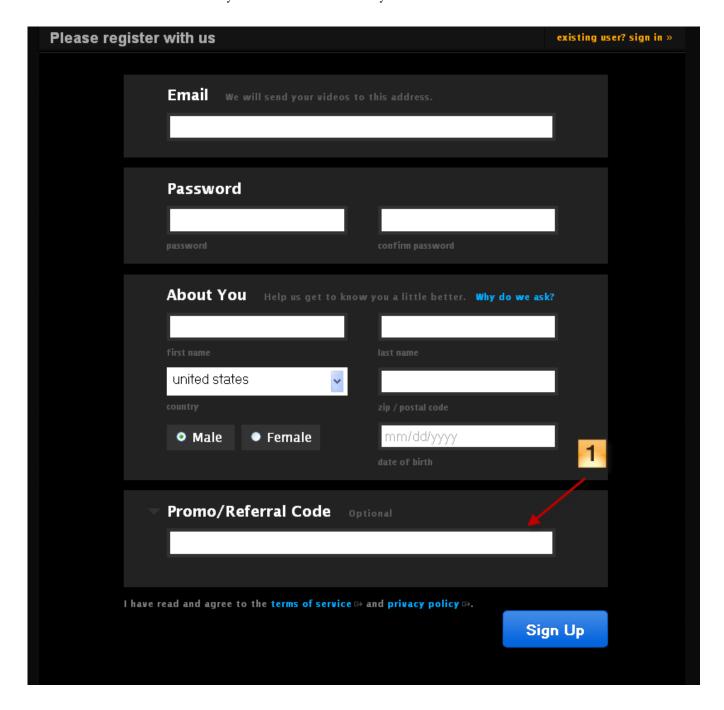
Once your account has been verified you will receive an email stating that you have a 6th month, Unlimited Account. Also in the email there will be a class code. **Do not lose this code!** Your students will use this code when they register so they have full-access to the site.

Each student (or groups of students) will need to have their own login. Currently Animoto only supports email address as ways to register. If you students do not have email addresses Animoto suggests creating dummy accounts in Gmail that you can retain control of. (There is more information about how to do this in their email.)

Once students are ready to register head to the Animoto Homepage and click Sign-Up.



On the next screen fill out the required information. Under the Promo/Referral Code (1) enter the Classroom Code that was sent in the email. (Remember you must have this code for your students to be able to have full access to the site.) Once you have entered all the required information click Sign Up. You will then receive a confirmation email that you will need to verify the email address.



2) Using Your Account

• Once you receive your email from Animoto in Education, follow the instructions to register your account. Once you complete those instructions you can sign-in on the main site.



- Here is what you will see:
 - 1) My Videos-Once you create videos this is where you will be able to view them. From here you can also remix videos and delete videos you have created.
 - 2) Create Video Button-Here is where you will go to create your video.
 - 3) Music Lounge-Animoto has a collection of Copyright Free music for you to choose from to add to your videos. You can preview the music you might want to add in the Lounge. (You will still have the opportunity to preview music when you create your video. The lounge allows you to preview without creating.)
 - 4) Help- Very good help documents if you get stuck.
 - 5) Information about your collection
 - 6) Videos From Friends-You can share your videos with friends who are also registered with Animoto. Right now you have one from your Friends at Animoto.



3) Making Your First Video

• Log into your account and click the *Create Video* button.



• First you need to decide what type of video you want to make, 30 seconds (12-15 images max) or a full length. The type of video will depend on your images. Once you decide click the type you want to create. (The steps are the same for each type.)



- Next you will need to add images. You have three choices:
 - 1) Upload From Your Computer-If your pictures are saved on your computer choose this option. Browse to where the pictures are. Click the picture to add and press open. (Tip: You can choose more than one picture at once by holding the CTRL key and clicking the images you want to add. This will select them all at once and you only have to upload one time.
 - 2) Retrieve From Another Site-If you use Facebook, Flikr, Picasa, SmugMug or Photobucket, you can add images you have stored on those sites.
 - 3) Select From Our Collection-You can browse Animoto's collection of copyright free images that you can use in your video. This is good if you need to add some images to fill time or you need that perfect picture to make your video just right. Their collection is extensive and changes with the seasons.

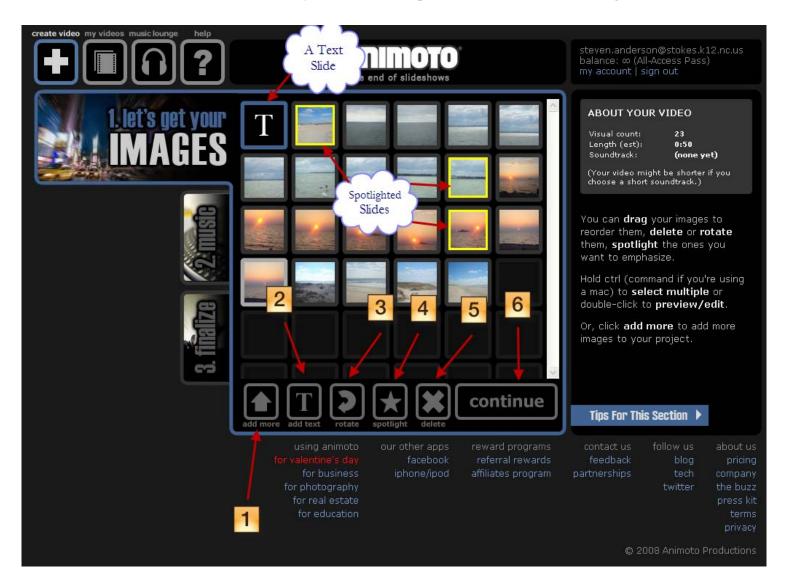


Tip: What is really awesome with this program is you can do all three of those to get images into your video. And you can go back as many times as you need to add more images.

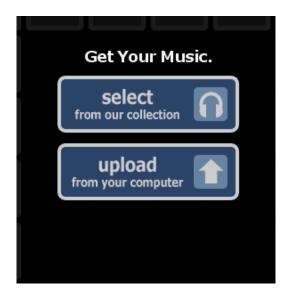
• If you choose to upload your pictures from your computer you will see the upload window. Depending on the number and size of the images to upload, and the speed of your connection it can take anywhere from 2 minutes to an hour.



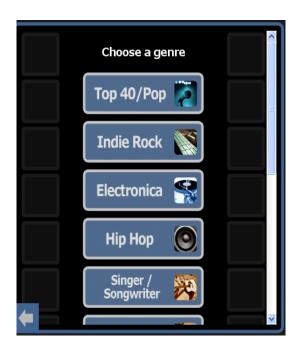
- Here I have upload some pictures from my trip to NCCAT on the coast. There are several things you can do at this point.
 - 1) Upload More Pictures
 - 2) Add Text-This is great for title slides or any other information you might want to include before or after an image. (Remember you don't control timing so consider this if you want to include lots of text.)
 - 3) Rotate-If you have an image you need to rotate simply click it and click the Rotate button until it is the way you want it.
 - 4) Spotlight-This highlights images in your show. (A really cool added effect for those special images.
 - 5) Delete-If you need to delete an image select it and click *Delete*.
 - 6) Continue-This takes you to the next portion of the video making.



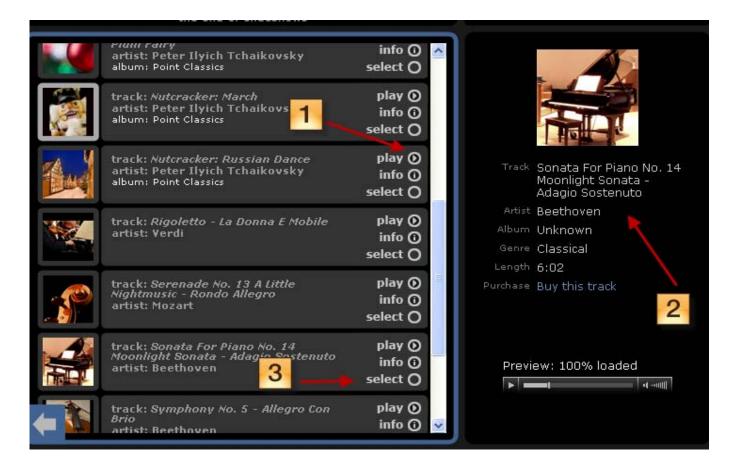
• Adding Music- Once you have your images the way you want them click *Continue* to add music. You have two choices. You can add copyright free music to your images by using the Animoto library or you can add your own music from your collection. (The music must be in mp3 format.) For teachers, the best thing to do is use the Animoto collection.



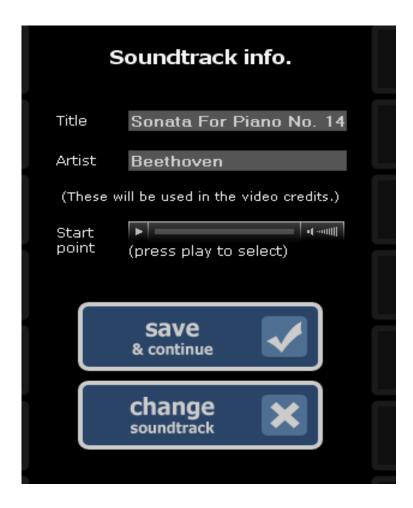
• The Animoto collection is extensive and has 11 different genres to choose from. Find your genre and then browse the music.



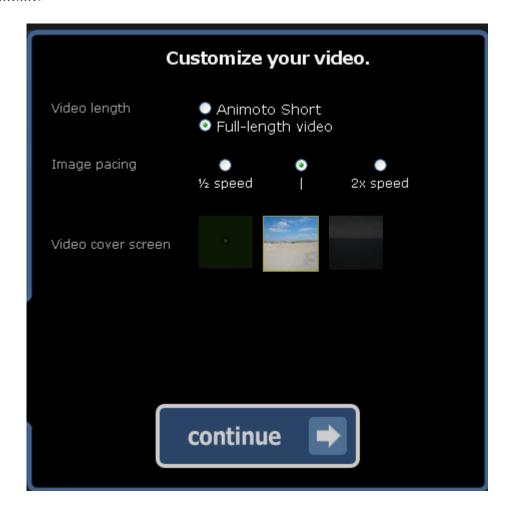
• You can preview any song by pressing the *Play* button (1) next to the song you want to hear. Information about the song is shown on the right (2). When you are ready, press the *Select* button (3) next to the song you want to be put in your video.



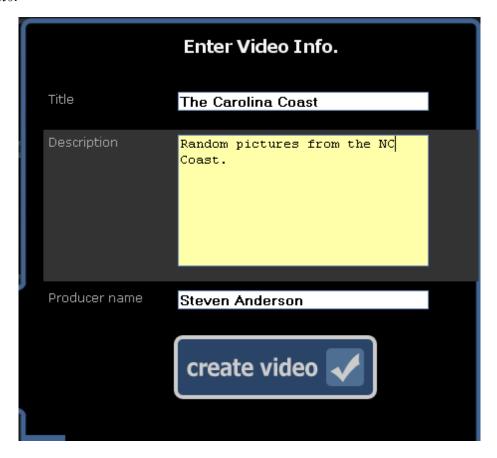
• Once you have made your selection you will give the opportunity to preview again. If it is what you want *Save and Continue*. If you want to change you can go back and choose another track.



• Once you have added your images and picked your music you are ready to Finalize. Here you can choose which type of video you want to make (30 sec/Full Length). Animoto decides how long it should be based on the number of images but you can change it here. You can also control the image pacing and choose the picture you want as the cover of your video. When ready click *Continue*.



• Enter a Title and Description for your video. At this point you can still go back and change anything you think you need to. Once you are ready click *Create Video*.



• Depending on the number of images videos take anywhere from a few minutes to an hour to produce. You can follow the progress on this page. You will also receive an email telling you your video is done.



- Once your video has been produced you are ready to view. The address in your
 address bar is what you will give so that students can navigate to your video or so
 you can see videos your students produce. (This will also be emailed to you.)
 Underneath your video are several options.
 - 1) Remix This Video-This allows you to go in and add more images or change the music track. What is awesome is that a new video is created. So you will have both the new and the old and you can remix as many times as you want.
 - 2) Send This Video To Friends-You can send an email with the link to your video to recipients you select.
 - 3) Post/Embed This Video-If you have a classroom blog you can put all your students' videos there for parents or community members to see.
 - 4) Download This Video-This saves a QuickTime version of your video to your computer.
 - 5) Upload To You Tube- You can upload straight to a You Tube account.
 - 6) Upgrade To DVD Quality-This allows you to purchase Hi-Res copies of your video.
 - 7) Other Features-For special seasons Animoto will give you the option to customize your video. Examples include Valentines, Halloween and Christmas.

