

Beijing Youth Voices Blog 2008



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THE PROJECT

In this project, you will be a photographer and storyteller. Your subject will be life in today's Beijing, told through your eyes. The photos and audio you create, over the next six months, will be published on the Internet in China and the U.S. They will appear as an online blog that you post every two weeks, with the support of Adobe Youth Voices and What Kids Can Do, Inc.

The project will require three sets of skills.

Academic

- Determining the subject for each of the dozen, small multimedia stories you will create—a story that combines 4-6 strong photos with a strong narrative (the commentary you speak and record) or live sounds and voices (that you have recorded).
- Writing a short narrative that goes with the photos, including researching facts and figures that help you make your point.
- Translating your narratives from Mandarin into English.
- Learning how to conduct a good interview.

Creative

- Determining what images would visually best tell your story.
- Learning how to take strong photographs.
- Learning how to make editorial decisions and arrange photos in a sequence that best fits the story you are telling.
- Finding and shaping your own personal voice and point of view in the commentaries you create.

Technical

- Learning how to use a digital camera, upload photos, organize them in files, and adjust them using Adobe Photoshop.
- Learning how to operate a tape recorder, upload audio, and, when necessary, edit audio to create a polished audio clip.
- Learning how to combine photos and audio to create a "VoiceThread" or short audio/slideshow that can be embedded in your blog.
- Learning how to produce an online blog.

The project will also require a strong commitment, teamwork, flexibility, and a willingness to learn.

And, we promise, the project will be fun!



STORY TOPICS

Every two weeks, you will create a short media piece that tells an engaging story for an audience that includes youth and adults in China and the U.S.—and other countries, too. For your U.S. audience, this may be the first time they have ever seen photos from China that are not strictly tourist pictures. They may have never heard a young Chinese person speak, in Mandarin or English. The stories you tell will be mostly new to them. This gives you a big responsibility (you need to be accurate) and a big opportunity (you will broaden their understanding).

Below is a list of possible story topics. Within each topic, think about the story *you* most want to tell. Everyone's will be—should be—different.

Myself

Show and tell, for example: what you personally like and dislike, your hopes and fears, the “you” other people see and the “you” they don’t see, how you are like your classmates and friends and what distinguishes you from them.

My family

Show and tell, for example: who makes up your family, how your family is like other Chinese families and how it is different, your family’s history, losses and accomplishments your family holds dear, important lessons you have learned from your family, what bothers you most about your family.

My neighborhood

Show and tell, for example: the character of your neighborhood (the buildings, people, streets, shops), how your neighborhood has changed, what makes your neighborhood a good place to live or a not-so-good place to live.

My school

Show and describe, for example: a typical school day, a specific class (English, science, etc.), a favorite teacher, lunchtime, your school’s rules.

A favorite place

Think of a favorite place of yours (for example, a local dumpling shop, an Internet café, a park, a store, a street) and show and describe what you like about it.

Someone I know who is special to me

Think of someone you know who is special to you. Ask to photograph them. And then tell:

- What is your relationship to this person?
- How would you describe this person (physical appearance, character, etc.)?

- Is there an event/incident that best captures their character?
- What about them do you most enjoy?
- What about them drives you crazy?
- What lesson have they taught you that you feel is important?
- If you had something to say to them, that they may have never heard you say, what would it be?

Someone I do not know who interests me

Think of someone you do not know but would like to know more about (for example, the lady who repairs bicycles on the sidewalk in your neighborhood, the father of a friend of yours, a musician in a local café, an athlete). Go interview and photograph them. Questions you might ask:

- Where and when were you born? What did your parents do to make a living?
- When did you move to Beijing and why? [If they weren't born in Beijing.]
- What was your childhood like? What memories stand out?

[If what interests you is their work]

- What jobs have you held? What's your current work? What experiences, interests, or knowledge prepared you for this work? Who has helped you most learn to be good at the work you do? How has your work affected your life (family, friends, where you live)? Is there an experience that especially stands out for you in your work?

[If what interests you is their personal story]

- What are some of the happiest times in your life? The saddest? What challenges have you faced? How have you overcome them? What do you think people see when they look at you? What don't they see? What gives you strength? What advice about life would you give a young person like me?

An event

Find an interesting event that you can attend (for example, an arts performance at your school, a concert, a neighborhood festival, a wedding). Bring your camera and tape recorder and capture the scenes, faces, and sounds as best you can.

A collection

Create a collection of photos that go together. Examples: interesting signs, store fronts and windows, street food, street vendors, bicyclists, children playing, old people exercising, vibrant colors, scenes of wealth, scenes of poverty, rickshaw drivers, pet birds and animals. There's really no limit to the kinds of visual collections you can make!

Youth culture

Pick a subject that relates to youth culture and then examine it through photographs and commentary. Examples of subjects: video games, music, clothes, movies, academic pressures, conformity versus individuality, friendship, rebellion, negative views of youth from adults.

NOTE: The subjects just listed are big subjects—you will need to figure out the particular angle you want to take. Develop one or two main questions for the subject you pick, such as:

- What about video games makes them so appealing (some say addictive)? Why are males attracted to video games much more than females?

- Why do young people—in Beijing and across the world—like contemporary music so much?
- What are the latest clothing fads among youth in Beijing? How expensive are they?
- What are the most popular movies among Beijing youth? Why?
- What’s good and bad about the intense academic pressure on Chinese youth today? What’s the best way to manage the pressure?
- What are the pros and cons of conformity? Of individuality?
- What do Beijing youth, like you, look for in a best friend? How do high school-aged boys and girls show they care about each other, especially?
- When Beijing youth rebel—against their family, school, or society—what may they do?
- Why do some adults hold negative views of youth? What are the common stereotypes?

Sports

Pick a sport and show and describe its place in present-day Beijing/China. It could be a traditional form of Chinese sport and exercise (such as skipping ropes, Tai Chi Chuan, martial arts) or modern (such as basketball, soccer, swimming).

The Olympics

For much of the world—and certainly for Beijing—the 2008 Summer Olympics is the BIG EVENT. There are countless stories to be told: about what the Olympics mean to China, about how the city is fixing itself up for the event and putting its best face forward, about everyday Beijingers who are winning and losing off the Olympic track, about the souvenir market, about the disruption the Olympics has caused in the daily life of Beijing, about training Beijingers to greet and treat visitors well. Go find a small story you would like to tell—and tell it well!

Social issues

As with youth culture, there are so many subjects that fall under this topic. And some subjects may lend themselves to photographs better than others. But these are critical subjects, deserving a youth perspective. The challenge is to think hard about what images would best capture the subject you pick and where you are most likely to find those images. Examples of subjects:

- Pollution
- Traffic congestion
- New construction displacing old neighborhoods
- Widening gap between the rich and the poor
- Migrants moving from rural areas to the city
- Old versus new
- Traditional versus modern
- Freedom of expression

Globalization

Globalization presents China—like so much of the world—with enormous opportunities. But it poses challenges, if not threats, as well. Good or bad, the signs of globalization show up at almost every corner in Beijing: in goods for sale in shops, in bilingual signs, in the shiny new tall buildings that go up every week that come with China’s economic boom, in the rush to master English, in popular culture, in the presence of multinational companies (including Starbucks). Pick an aspect of globalization that interests you, figure out how to show it through photos, and create a sizzling commentary to go with your pictures.



PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

There are two sides to taking striking photographs. The first is having visually interesting things to photograph. The second is using your camera with competence. Here, we will give some general pointers about the first and some specific pointers about the second.

1) CAPTURING VISUALLY INTERESTING IMAGES

Once you have decided on the story you want to tell, think about where you can go to capture great images. Much of photography involves being at the right place at the right time—which is sometimes a matter of sheer luck. But just as important is developing your eye for what makes a good picture. Here's our advice:

- Look for action, emotion, the expression on people's faces, colors, contrasts, small details, reflections, unusual lighting.
- Move around. Get close to what you're photographing (without using the zoom lens). Try different angles. Try taking vertical pictures as well as horizontal.
- Take lots and lots of pictures. The more photos you take, the better the chance that you'll get those striking images that make people say "Awesome."

2) CAMERA BASICS

Controls and settings

On and off: To save batteries, most digital cameras automatically shut off when not used for several minutes. If this happens, just turn it back on.

Mode dial: The mode dial is the one with icons and abbreviations. For this project, keep it set on "AUTO" (which is usually in green). This way, the camera will do most of the thinking for you.

Shutter: Here's one of the most important things to remember **every time** you take a picture: **first press the shutter down half way** and hold it there for a few seconds. This sets the focus. **Then keeping your finger on the shutter** (do **not** take it off!), press the shutter down the rest of the way. You must follow these steps for the focus on your photos to be sharp. In the rush to take a picture, it is easy to forget to depress the shutter half way, give the camera a chance to focus, and then depress it the rest of the way.

Note: When you are taking pictures outdoors, in the sunlight, you can often get away with pushing the shutter down in one stroke. But if you are taking pictures indoors, the lower light conditions absolutely require that you press the shutter in two steps.

Zoom: It is tempting to use the zoom to get close up to the subject of your picture; it's less intrusive than "sticking" the camera in a person's face. But when you zoom in, especially indoors where the lighting isn't as strong, the picture loses sharpness and focus. It's always best to move *yourself* as close to the subject as you can. Then, if you want to get closer still, zoom in a bit.

Flash: When you set the mode dial on "AUTO," the camera's internal flash automatically goes off when you are taking pictures inside or under low light conditions. Sometimes, the flash is necessary. More often, it is not—this is one area where the camera's thinking isn't right on. Pictures taken with a flash tend to have a cool (blue-ish) rather than a warm tone. And sometimes the white light from the flash shows up in the picture, something you don't want.

When you are taking pictures inside, you need to take the extra step of **turning off the automatic flash every time your camera comes on.** (Unfortunately, whenever your camera shuts off, it will automatically go back to the "flash on" setting, so you'll need to turn it off again.)

How to turn off the automatic flash:

- Press the icon that looks like a lightning bolt. Then press it again. On the LCD screen, the lightning bolt icon should show up with a line through it. This tells you the flash is off.

Steady and level

The other factor that affects the focus—the sharpness—of a picture, beyond pressing the shutter correctly, is holding the camera steady. If the camera moves when you take the picture, the image will come out blurry. When people press the shutter, they often unconsciously move the camera (down) too. **You must hold the camera steady and still!**

Also do your best to hold the camera level, so the pictures don't slope to the left or right. Before you snap the shot, look at the LCD screen and make sure the image appears level.

Note: Most people take horizontal pictures. But there are times when what you are photographing will come out better if you rotate the camera and take a vertical shot. This way you can capture the length of what you are shooting. You will probably have to take a few steps back when shooting vertically, so that you don't cut off the top or bottom of what you are photographing.

Lighting

Always take lighting into consideration: Next to the subject, the most important part of every picture is the lighting. It affects the appearance of everything you photograph. Too much light and your photos look washed out. Too little and they look dark. Pictures that are too light can be fixed up some in Adobe Photoshop. Pictures that are too dark have to be discarded.

Rely on available light as much as possible: As noted earlier, learn how to turn off your camera's automatic flash—and turn it off. Turn it on only when the lighting is poor and you have no alternative but to rely on your on-camera flash. If you are not sure whether the picture requires the flash, experiment.

Take a shot without the flash and look at it on the LCD monitor. Then take one with the flash. See which looks better.

Avoid red-eye: When you take pictures with the flash on, be sure that the camera feature called “remove red eye” is turned on too.

Know the range of your flash: If you do use the flash, make sure you aren’t taking the picture beyond the flash’s range. Pictures taken beyond the maximum flash range will be too dark. For many cameras, the maximum flash range is about five steps away from the subject.

Turn around to avoid the sun: When taking outdoor photos, make sure the sun is behind you. If the sun is directly in your field of view, your photo may look overexposed and washed out.

Don’t shoot subjects or objects in front of a window: If you are taking a picture indoors and the subject is close to a window, it may turn out too dark. The camera’s automatic light meter will lock onto the light coming in from the window, leaving your subject under-exposed and mostly black—the opposite of the washed-out white look of over-exposed pictures.

Taking photos of people

Portrait photography is an art of its own. Getting close up, natural-looking photos of people challenges the best photographers. Often, the lighting isn’t good, the person’s expression is wrong, or they look too posed.

This helps:

- Snap as many pictures as you can of the person.
- Be sure to get some close ups, taken from different angles (not all head on, like mug shots).
- Ask your subject to move around and pose in front of different backgrounds. When picking a background, pay attention to what it contains. Be sure it doesn’t include distracting objects, like wires and soda bottles.
- Try to get some pictures of your subject in a setting that “fits” them—for example, at work, if they have a job, or doing something they love (or hate) to do. Remember, though, that you will still need to be pretty close up to the person—you want him/her to be in the foreground, not the background.
- Don’t take pictures of your subject directly in front of or near a window. The light coming in from the window will throw off the camera’s automatic exposure, and the person will come out too dark in the photo.
- Ask the person to go about their business and try to make yourself inconspicuous, then snap away.

NOTE: If you take a photo of a person in which they are easily recognizable (a friend, a relative, a teacher—anyone you are featuring in your media piece), you must have them sign a release form that gives you permission to use their image and their name.



INTERVIEWING TIPS

For this project, the interviews you conduct will usually be short, since the media you will be creating will be short too.

Some of the interviews may be “on the spot”: for example, you are creating a story about your favorite Internet café and you ask two or three people how often they come, how long they usually stay, what they use the Internet for, whether they think the Internet is addictive, as some people claim.

Other interviews you will arrange and prepare for in advance: for example, when you create a story about someone you do not know but have decided to learn more about. You will need to set up an interview time and place and come with a good set of questions that will draw out the person you are interviewing.

Whether it’s an on-the-spot interview or one you have prepared in advance, here are some general interviewing tips.

NOTE: If you will be using the name and actual voice of someone you interview, you must ask them to sign a brief permission form allowing you to use their voice.

Designing good questions

Group your questions in the order that makes the most sense. *Avoid questions that can be answered with a simple yes or no.* Try to include some of all of the kinds of questions below, for a thorough interview.

Open-ended—Short, simple, open-ended questions have many possible answers, and are a good backbone for an interview. Instead of, “Did you have a hard childhood because of poverty?” ask, “What was your childhood like?” “Did you have enough to eat?”

Specific—Specific questions examine historical details. For example, “How many times did this happen exactly?” “When and where were you born?” “When did you first get interested in sports?” Use specific questions to establish the framework of facts.

Sensory—Sensory questions bring an interview to life. “When you used to walk down the streets of this neighborhood, what did you hear?”

Meaning-seeking—Meaning-seeking questions reveal feelings, insights and unique personal viewpoints. Examples are: “What did you draw on in your spirit to survive the loss of your child?” “Looking back, what would you have done differently?” “If you had all the money in the world, what would you do with it?”

Elaboration—These little questions go a long way. “Can you tell me more about that?” and “Is there anything else you would like to add?” invite more detail and information. At the conclusion of an interview, encourage the speaker to tell you anything they may feel was left out.

Interview dynamics

Below are key points to keep in mind during an interview.

Make your approach polite and respectful

Explain what you're doing. Be confident. Assume your subject will want to talk to you. The way people respond depends on how you approach them. The trick is to make people realize that your project is both fun and important.

Listening is the key

People must feel that you care about what they say and that you will honor and respect their words. Give the interviewee a lot of cues that you are listening and care about what they are telling you.

A good interview is like a conversation

Prepare questions, but don't just follow a list. If your questions are rehearsed and hollow, the answers will be too. If you are curious and your questions are spontaneous and honest, you will get a good interview.

Don't be afraid of pauses and silences

Resist the temptation to jump in. Let the person think. Often the best comments come after a short silence when the person you are interviewing feels the need to fill the void and add something better.

Be neutral

It is important to ask questions that don't reveal your bias or an expected answer. Especially when handling political, moral, religious, or societal issues, make sure your own beliefs do not come into the interview.

Use the small details to tell the big stories

Look for the little things that surprise you. Here's an example: Tricia Xu is forty-five years old, a teacher, has a family and a dog. But even more interesting—and revealing—is the fact that she grew up in Mongolia, didn't start school until she was nine, and almost died from pneumonia when she was 16. You can learn a lot about people from a few unexpected details.

Take notes

Remember specific details. Take notes immediately after the interview, while it's still fresh in your mind.

Be genuinely curious

There is one simple rule for getting people to talk openly and honestly: you have to be genuinely curious about the world around you.

Express thanks

Be sure to thank the interviewee for sharing his or her words and time. Let them know what it means to you, and its usefulness for your project.

Working with audio recorders: technical tips

We can't say enough about the value of recording interviews. It allows you to focus on the give and take of the interview. It preserves the words and ways of speech of the interviewee—which is what makes an interview come alive. And it assures accuracy.

However, it's amazing how such a simple machine can cause so much havoc. Even seasoned professionals will find themselves pushing a wrong button, forgetting to bring extra batteries, with a recording where the voices aren't loud enough or there is too much interfering noise.

So here's what the pros want you to know.

Get comfortable with the equipment

Play around with the recorder on your own until you are very familiar with how it works. If you're relaxed with the recorder, the people you're interviewing will be too.

Get organized

Always make sure you have an extra set of batteries (and tape if you are using a tape recorder).

Do a test

Do a test before you begin. Record a few seconds, then play it back to make sure the sound is good.

Record interviews in the quietest place possible

When picking a spot for the interview, be careful of traffic noise, talk from the room next door—anything that will make it hard to hear the recorded audio. If you have to record an interview in a loud place, bring the microphone even closer (2-3 inches) to the speaker's mouth.

Make the interview situation comfortable before you start

Move chairs around, get close to the person you are interviewing. For example: Sit at the corner of a table, not across, so you can hold the microphone close and your arm won't grow weak or you can place the tape recorder immediately between you on the table.

Keep the recorder/microphone close

To repeat: Just as when you are recording yourself, the most important thing is to keep the microphone close to the speaker's mouth (5-6 inches). If you want to record your questions too, you may have to move the recorder/microphone back and forth.

Put the person at ease

Talk about the weather. Joke about the recorder. It's a good idea to begin recording a few minutes before you actually start the interview. That helps you avoid the uncomfortably dramatic moment: "Okay, now we will begin recording." Before they realize it, you've started the interview.

Beware of the pause button

When recording, make sure you're not in the standby mode. Don't use the pause button. It's a very tricky little button – it can make you think you are recording when you're not.

Record everything

Long pauses are okay. Often the stuff you think is weird, worthless, or that you initially want to edit out, will end up being the best and most surprising parts of the interview.

Keep it rolling

The golden rule of recording an interview is that the best moments always happen right when you've stopped recording. There's a reason for that: As soon as you push "stop," people relax and are more themselves. Natural, truthful moments are priceless. Batteries are cheap. Keep it rolling.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Start with your photos

So how do you put together your media piece for your blog? Start with the photos. Whether your final product will be a "VoiceThread" or an audio slideshow ("Soundslides"), organizing your photos is the first step.

Your goal:

- To select the 4-6 photos that will make up your story.
- To adjust the photos as necessary (crop, sharpen, level, contrast).

NOTE: Your teacher will help you learn the software mentioned below (Adobe Photoshop Elements 6.0 in this section and VoiceThread, SoundslidesPlus, and Audacity in a later section). Here we provide general directions.

1. Upload your photos into Adobe Photoshop. Be sure to clearly label the folder/catalogue that contains the uploaded photos so that you can find them easily.
2. Look through the photos you took and first delete the weakest photos (poor focus, over or under exposed, of little interest visually). If you have a number of versions of the same scene, put them beside each other in the organizer, pick the best, and delete the others.
3. Go through the photos again (those you didn't delete) and pick the ones you want to include in your piece. Look for two things: the quality of the photo (sharpness, etc.) and what it shows/tells. Each photo should convey a different aspect of your story.
4. You may now be left with some "maybe" photos (unless you finished your photo selection process in step #3). How do you decide if a "maybe" photo goes into your "choose" pile? Look for a photo that shows something that is missing from the photos you have selected, a photo that will add a new element to your story.
5. Now you are ready to fix, as necessary, the final photos in Photoshop. *Begin by making a copy of the original photo so that if things go wrong in the fixing, you can return to the original and start again.*

Cropping

Decide, first, if you want to crop a picture. When the important part of your picture is too small, too far away, off-center, or overshadowed by something else in the picture, it's time to crop that picture down to size. When you crop a picture, you cut off the unwanted parts, zooming in on the part of the picture you want to keep.

Adjusting levels, contrast, colors

Then "fix" your photos, as needed. The auto fixes in Photoshop do a good job of sharpening and bringing out the colors and contrasts in most photos. Sometimes, all you need to do is click "Auto Smart Fix." If a photo could use a little sharpening, too, click "Auto Sharpen." Experiment with the different options and see how they change your photo. There is no "right" formula.

Then create the audio that goes with your photos

In this project, there are two types of media products you can create for a story, depending on the type of audio you want to include.

One is a "VoiceThread," which you produce online at www.voicethread.com following their template. VoiceThread allows you to create an "album" that combines your photos with comments about each photo, which you record directly into your computer.

The second is a "SoundSlide," simple software that allows you to combine photos with an audio track that you've prepared ahead of time and upload. You can include text, too. Here, the audio might be music, sounds you've recorded, the voice and comments of someone you interviewed. The software does not allow you to attach audio to individual photos. Rather you are attaching a soundtrack to a group of photos—and then must adjust the timing at which the photos change to fit the soundtrack.

VoiceThread

If you are creating a "VoiceThread," as just noted, you will build and combine the photos and audio together. Go to VoiceThread.com, follow your teacher's instructions for how to create your album and identity, and upload your photos. Once you've uploaded the photos, arrange them in the order you want them to appear.

Now you are ready to add comments to each photo. This is where you *tell* the story the images *show*. Here's what we suggest you do:

Create a good opening statement for the first photo—just like you would for an essay—that immediately draws viewers into the subject of your story. Then map out what you roughly want to say with each photo. Don't simply describe the picture, telling viewers what they can see with their own eyes. Challenge yourself to be a storyteller.

Example: Let's imagine that you are creating a piece about your best friend, Viktor. You have five photos. It might go like this:

- First photo—a close up picture of Viktor
- Comment: "They say opposites attract. That's certainly the case with Viktor and me. We have known each other since we were two years old, when our mothers met in the park. We have been inseparable ever since. We live in the same neighborhood, [give name of neighborhood], we've attended the same schools. Our fathers are both engineers."
- Second photo—a picture of Viktor playing basketball
- Comment: "But that is where the similarities end. For one thing, Viktor loves sports. He plays basketball whenever he can. Soccer, also. He has Michael Jordan posters in his bedroom and stays up late watching soccer on TV. Me, I like to draw. I do anime and sketches of people. I can get lost in a drawing and forget the time."
- Third photo—a picture of Viktor in school

- Comment: "We part ways in school, too. Viktor likes science, I like history. He likes to be called on by the teacher, I don't. He races down the halls and up the stairs, I take my time. Other students ask him, 'Why are you always smiling?' They ask me: 'Why do you always look so serious?'"
- Fourth photo—a picture of Viktor and you together, reflected in a store window
- Comment: "Still, we are best friends. We go out together, to shop or walk. We talk about movies and music (though, you guessed, we like different kinds). We tease each other. We complain about our teachers and our parents. We share our dreams."
- Fifth photo—a picture of Viktor and you, close up, with an arm around each other
- Comment: "What keeps us going as friends, I guess, is comfort. we know each other like the back of our hands. We accept each other for what we are. We don't need to brag or put on airs. We can walk down the street and say nothing at all, content in our friendship. Can opposites attract? I'd say 'Yes!'"

Soundslides

With Soundslides, you need to prepare your audio in advance and then upload it along with your photos to the Soundslides template. Also, the Soundslide format works best if you have more photos: six should be a minimum.

Music

If you want your audio to consist entirely of music, you first need to find music that fits the photos (their subject and mood). But beware: copyright laws prevent you from using commercially available music (you can't just copy a track from a favorite CD). You can only use music that's not copyrighted. The audio files need to be mp3's.

You will also likely need to edit your music clip down. You should shoot for 60 seconds. If you have 6 slides in your show, this means that each would appear for ten seconds, which is about the limit for how long a photo should appear before giving way to the next.

If you have already worked with audio and music before, then you probably know how to trim an audio file and have software you use. If not, a free download called "Audacity" does the job adequately. Your teacher can help you learn how to quickly use it.

Sound

Perhaps you have recorded sounds with your digital recorder that you want to use as your audio. As with music, you will need to make a 60 second or so clip that you can then upload to Soundslides. Again, software you are already using or Audacity will do the job.

Interview

Hopefully, as part of the project, you've tried some interviews for which you have good audio (and pictures, of course!). Creating a tight one to two minute clip (60 seconds may be just too short) from one or more interviews will test your editing skills, to be sure. You'll have to review your audio for the best parts, clip them, and then patch them together into one audio file. But there is nothing quite like having the real voice of the person whose image you are showing.

Once you've uploaded the audio file to Soundslide, you will need to give careful thought to the order in which the photos appear and how long each takes so that the audio and images work well together.