



## **Multimedia Journalism**

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### **Converting Audio**

Since we are using a variety of audio formats, sometimes you run into a file that does not open in Audacity or does not work properly when it does. Fortunately, we have some free options for converting the files.

The easiest converting program is MPEG Streamclip (<http://www.squared5.com/>). You can download it for free on Mac or Windows. The audio recorders we use in class record in the .wma format. Audacity will not work with them. But, if you open the file in MPEG Streamclip (make sure that All Files is selected in formats), you can save as an aiff, an uncompressed format. Just select File, Export to other Formats, and Choose Aiff. Keep the defaults and save it to the proper location with the .aif extension. Then it should open in Audacity.

The same should work if you use mpg video clips from your camera and want to save the audio. Just open, and Save to .aif as we did above.

Sometimes a file will open in Audacity, but may generate several clipping sounds. That is because the volume on the clip is at a higher level than can be handled by Audacity. Usually, if you convert the file to .aif, it will lower the volume and remove the clipping sounds.

Finally, if all else fails, you should be able to open the file in iMovie and convert to aiff. Choose File, Share, then click the Quicktime button. In the dialogue box that opens, you can change the export format. Choose Sound to Aiff.

We will use iMovie for editing video. If you are importing .mpg videos (say from your digital camera) into iMovie, you will need to use MPEG Streamclip to demux the audio. Just open the file and choose Export to Quicktime. The resulting Quicktime file should import to iMovie with audio included.

Don't worry if things don't work immediately. There's always a way to convert a multimedia file. Ask for help if you need it.