Stop flipping out:
Planning video assignments using Flip cameras

About the Flip Mino and MinoHD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spec</th>
<th>Flip Mino HD</th>
<th>Flip Mino (SD)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Memory</td>
<td>4GB (holds 60 minutes)</td>
<td>2GB (holds 60 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resolution</td>
<td>1280x720 (comparison: standard DVDs are 720x480); 30 fps; 16:9 Widescreen format</td>
<td>640x480; 30 fps 4:3 ‘standard’ format</td>
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| Video Format | H.264 (MP4 files)  
Also exports to: Windows Media (.wmv) on a PC or 
Quicktime (.mov) on a Mac | AVI format; Also exports to WMV (PC) or MOV (Mac) |
| Battery    | Rechargeable - up to 2 hours of use                     | Rechargeable - up to 4 hours of use |

Using FlipShare software

For basic video assignments and work with the Flip cameras, we recommend using the built-in FlipShare software. First time users of the Flips will need to have administrative access to their computer to allow the software to properly install and/or use computers at Duke (OIT labs, Library, etc) that already have the plugin installed. The following is an image taken of the main options presented in the FlipShare software.

1 - Saves the currently selected video to a folder on your computer.
2 - Plays the currently selected video full-screen. Useful for presenting from the Flip.
3 - Uploads a small version of the selected video to Flip servers and sends a link via Email
4 - Similar to Email, except provides choices of greeting card designs
5 - Provides options to upload your video to online sources, including YouTube, AOL, MySpace and ‘other websites’. NOTE: Exporting a video for other websites will compress your video for the web and export in either WMV (for PCs) or MOV (for Macs).
6 - Several videos can be assembled into a longer ‘movie’
7 - Takes a still image/photo from your paused video (the resolution is 424x318 - enough for a 2x3” pic)
8 - Creates a DVD with selected videos
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Best Practices for Flip assignments

About video file sizes: Flip cameras may be small, but their file sizes can be quite large. When working with video, be aware that you or your students will need plenty of hard drive space (or perhaps even an external hard drive for longer-term projects). One hour of full-quality video equals 4GB (MinoHD) or 2GB (Mino). When posting to the web, it's almost always preferable to compress video files. This can be done by uploading the final video to YouTube, by exporting the video for ‘other websites’ through the FlipShare software, or by exporting the full quality video and then compressing/exporting it in a smaller, web-friendly format using Quicktime Pro, Windows Movie Maker, or another video editing tool such as iMovie.

Sharing video on YouTube: If the assignment involves video that can be public, YouTube is an excellent and easy way to share video in a course. Each student can sign up for their own YouTube account and upload video individually. Then, students can provide links back to their videos, or faculty can create ‘Playlists’ of uploaded videos to collect them. If the project needs to be private, a class can still use YouTube, but might want to create one large, temporary shared account for everyone to upload video to.

Sharing video on Blackboard: YouTube videos can easily be embedded in Blackboard as Discussion Board postings or within the Blog or Wiki tool as posts/pages. Blackboard also allows for single files of less than 100mb to be loaded directly into the system. A student using say, a blog or wiki, can upload small/short videos directly into the tool as a link. Students in the course should be aware that they may need to all use Quicktime player to view videos loaded directly into Blackboard.

If larger video files are necessary, faculty and students should consider using OIT’s Webfiles space to ‘stream’ videos (http://www.oit.duke.edu/web-multimedia/multimedia/dukestream/)

Flip audio and lighting quality: The main drawbacks to Flip cameras are the audio quality (which can get fuzzy or hissy if the subject is at a distance), and its susceptibility to ‘grainy’ looking footage in low lighting. Flips can also produce extremely shaky footage if not held carefully or supported correctly. Keeping these drawbacks in mind will better assure quality footage.

Editing in another tool: Flip video can be exported and edited using tools such as Windows Movie Maker, iMovie, Adobe Premiere or Final Cut Pro. Students should visit the Multimedia Project Studios (http://www.oit.duke.edu/comp-print/labs/mps/index.html) on campus for more information or to schedule time at a computer loaded with video editing software.

CIT produced videos for working with Flips: CIT has created a few short tutorial videos to explain different aspects of working with Flip cameras (including basic editing, making a movie, uploading to YouTube, and posting a YouTube video in Blackboard). These are available on YouTube at the following link:

http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=3E3EEA65A076C827&search_query=flip

For more info about copyright and sample video release forms, see:
http://library.duke.edu/blogs/scholcomm/frequently-asked-questions/toolkit/