

Audio Recording With Audacity

Video Creation Subgroup Meeting – December 14, 2017

My Approach to Recording Audio

- For best results (for me), I record audio and video separately
- I use a detailed script and read directly from the script while recording
- I try to keep my voice even – speaking level, tone, etc.
- I avoid speaking in a monotone
- I try not to use formal language. I lean toward using informal or colloquial language.
- To the extent possible, I record all audio in one take. I find that my voice sounds different at different times of the day, so I try to do everything at one time.
- I do occasionally pause during a recording session to drink some water, clear my throat, etc.

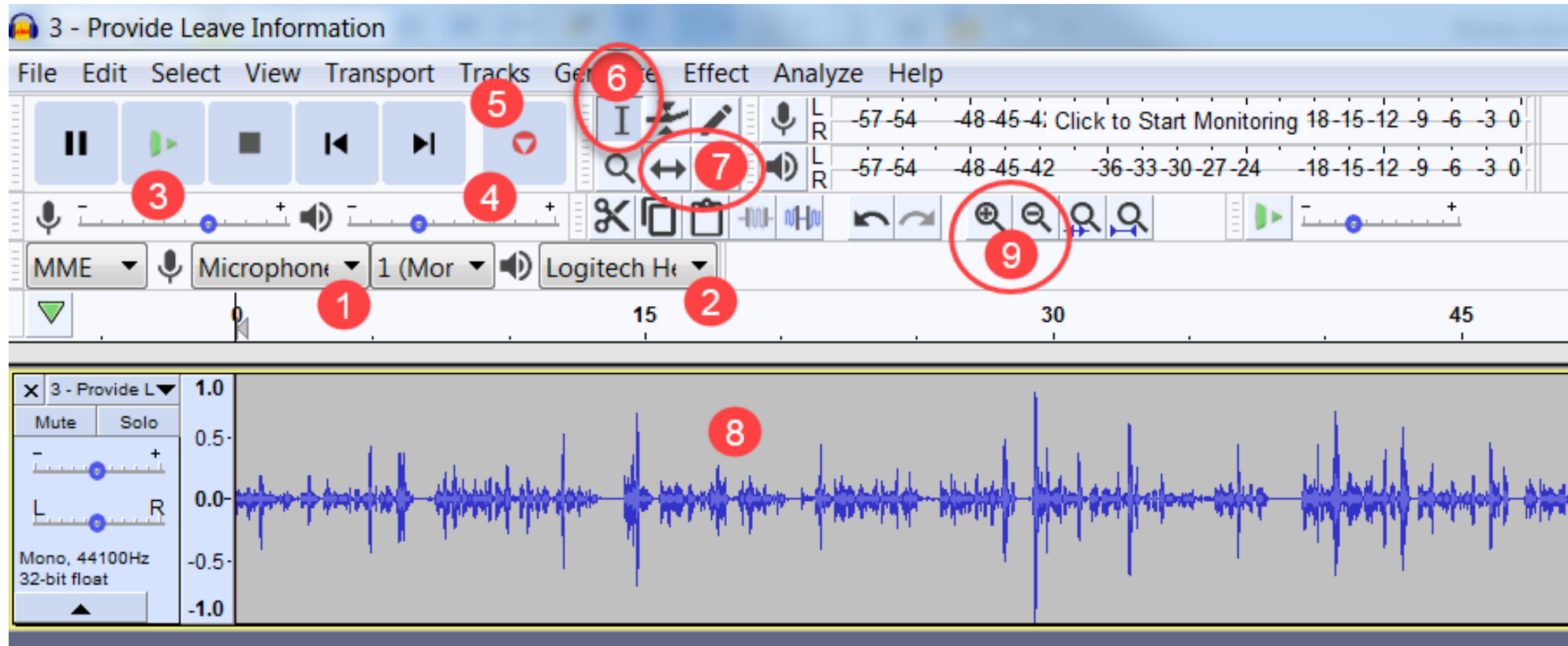
My Approach, Continued

- I always keep a glass of water nearby so I can make sure my mouth doesn't get dry
- I use a USB headset and position the microphone around my chin to minimize breathing sounds, etc.
- When I am ready to begin, I press Record and speak for a few seconds to get my voice ready
- I use Audacity to record and edit my audio tracks. I rely on a minimal set of Audacity features, but there are many available features

About Audacity

- Audacity is free!
- Widely used
- Available for Windows, Mac OS and Linux
- It's powerful (and provides features I don't begin to understand)
- It's easy to use and easy to learn how to use (many help resources are available)
- <http://www.audacityteam.org/>

Audacity Interface



1. Microphone Select
2. Speaker Select
3. Recording Volume
4. Speaker Volume
5. Record Button

6. "Play Head" Selection
7. Segment Move Selection
8. Audio Wave Form
9. Zoom/Pan

My Favorite Keyboard Shortcuts

Key	Function
Space bar	Start/stop the playhead
P	Pause playback or recording
Ctrl-S	Save (.aup file; not .wav)
Ctrl-Z	Undo
Ctrl-Y	Redo