

# Descript Explanation Transcript

Hey guys. My name's Macey. I am a film student at the University of Alabama, and I am also in charge of social media and editing at [TheStoryAcorn.com](http://TheStoryAcorn.com).

We use this really cool new software called Descript, and today we're gonna learn how to use it. Normally the issue with student editing in the past has been that it's expensive. Descript is \$15 a month, which is actually pretty good for all the services it provides. For students and teachers, the price is 5\$ a month, and for the first thirty days it is free.

So Descript does offer video and audio editing, but today we're just gonna talk about audio to help you guys with your podcasts.

So at this point, there is a lesson on [TheStoryAcorn.com](http://TheStoryAcorn.com) about how to interview someone, where to find your story, how to find your person. We're gonna assume you already have that on your phone, and we're gonna talk about how to upload it into Descript and get to editing it. So let's get started.

As we walk through these steps, I'll be talking in Mac terms. If your computer operates on Windows, then your commands will be slightly different. You can find specific clarifications on installation and keyboard shortcuts on the Descript website, [Descript.com](http://Descript.com).

So for you or your school to download Descript, let's go to [Descript.com](http://Descript.com) and click on Get Started For Free. It'll ask you to sign up, use whatever email or password you prefer.

Once you sign up, it'll download a zip file. You'll see that at the bottom of your browser. Drag this zip file from the bottom of your browser to your desktop. Then you're gonna double click this zip file to open it. Once it opens, it'll look like a box with a blue box inside of it. You're gonna double click on that as well, and it'll start downloading. There will be a progress bar. Once that progress bar is complete, Descript will be installed.

Now, you need to sign in.

You're gonna sign in using the same information you used to create your Descript account just a second ago. It's gonna ask you why you're using Descript. You can click on student or teacher, or whatever best fits your needs. I'm gonna go ahead

and click on student, and then it will ask you to create a space where it will store your projects.

Some of you will keep this on your computer or your personal laptop. If you're using a school computer or you don't have enough space on your personal laptop, you can always use a thumb drive for this stuff.

Descript is gonna ask you to select the size of your team. What does this mean? Let's say you're doing the project alone. You can say, "Just Me." Click on the "Just Me" button. Let's say you're doing this project with fellow students in your school or with students in other schools in another town. If that's the case, click the appropriate team size, and then put their emails in the box below to share the project with them.

So why would you record with students from other towns, other schools? One of the goals of the Department of Education is to really encourage collaboration between different communities. There's a great big world out there, and there's just a lot of people you can work with. If you have your school's permission to do this, to work with people outside of your school, there's a video on how to do this at [TheStoryAcorn.com](http://TheStoryAcorn.com).

So let's say you record the interview in your town and there's a student many, many miles away who wants to edit it on Descript, and then there's another student in the other direction who wants to do the voiceover. All of you can collaborate on Descript to make a really cool final project.

So after the emails for the team members, or if you're doing it alone, all of that has been loaded Descript is going to ask you what kind of content you're interested in making. There's a lot of different options, but in this lesson, we're talking about an audio podcast to save our stories of history. So we're just gonna click on Podcast Audio.

Descript will ask for your default project type, video or audio. Stick with audio for now. Let's learn how to make a podcast first, and then we can later learn how to edit a film.

Now you have Descript downloaded and set up. So upon entering the site, it's gonna ask you if you want to do a tutorial with some exercise files, and I really recommend doing that for hands-on learning. But this video is gonna show you what you need to know right now to work on your audio podcasts.

First, click on "new project." Give your project a name. I've titled mine Demo Podcast Project. And then I'll start with the "Choose File To Transcribe" option. It'll ask you to pick your file. And then once you have selected your file, it's gonna ask you to state your parameters.

That's your language that you want it to be in. The number of speakers, everything you see on the screen right now. Give each speaker a name. If you are talking on the audio, name yourself. If there are two or more of you, use the dropdown menu to name different people. I'll name this particular one Demo Speaker.

Once you click continue, the audio will begin to transcribe. It'll take a minute or so, depending on the length of your interview, but once it's finished, it'll look just like a Word document and everything said in the interview will be there in text.

Descript probably won't understand every word, so you'll need to go through this generated transcription and correct things. As you go through, you'll not only see the text, but you'll also hear the audio behind the text, so it'll be easy for you to correct.

"When we lived on that farm, we had four horses. We used those horses and we went, we went to town that day and bought some stuff from the general store."

How do you make these corrections though?

Let's say the person you interviewed says, "when we lived on that farm, we had four horses," and let's say Descript spelled four, F O R E . In that case, you would wanna change that word fore to F O U R.

To edit a spelling mistake or put in an entirely different word, simply click at the end of that word and then click backspace. You'll get a popup with the option to correct or overdub or a couple different options. If you click the correct button, it will allow you to rewrite the word. You can type whatever you want into that, and then press enter, and it'll fix it for you.

If you want to completely delete a word, you can backspace on it twice from the end of the word, and it'll go away. So for example, someone said, "we went, we went to town that day." Let's say you wanna remove the second "we went."

To completely delete the second "we went," you'll backspace on it twice from the end of the word, and the second "we went," will go away.

At this point, now you have all the text and audio for your story. And sometimes you're gonna wanna move the pieces and parts around to best tell the story. And Descript lets you do that.

"When we lived on that farm, we had four horses."

You can move the text around in the exact same manner that you move text around in a Word document, copy and pasting in different spots that make the most sense. But in Descript, it not only moves the text, it also moves the audio. So by editing text, you are also editing the audio to tell your story.

"We had four horses when we lived on that farm."

So now let's talk about narration. Think of the things said in your interview as little golden beads. And to connect these golden beads, you're gonna need a string. That is your voiceover. All of this is gonna come together to tell a really cool and interesting story of community history.

Without the voiceover, it might be kind of hard to understand what the story is telling. And one thing you can't do is confuse the viewer. So your narration is kind of crucial. Go to any of the Bloody Tuesday Story Acorn podcasts and listen to what Billy is saying. That's voiceover narration to help the story flow more smoothly. You'll wanna put this in your own podcast.

Once you have your narration written out, record your narration into your phone's audio app. Then you're gonna bring it into Descript, just like you did with the audio from your interview.

Then just like you would in a word file, cut and paste your narration into the places where it'll help tell your story.

"This is the story of living on a horse farm."

"This is the story of living on a horse farm. We had four horses."

It's really that simple. Now, you have your narration. When you're interviewing, you're gonna have your phone's microphone pointed towards the person you're asking the questions to. Because of that, sometimes it might not always pick up your voice asking the questions. You're gonna notice this when you listen to your Descript audio.

To fix that, you can do what we just did and record yourself asking the questions on your phone and bring the file into Descript like we've done a couple times now.

Then you'll be able to hear both yourself asking the question and the answer with nice clarity.

Once all your questions are recorded, load them into Descript like you've done with everything else.

Using Descript, you're gonna edit these questions so that they sound and look like you want them to. Then, you'll copy and paste these questions into the proper places in the text of your podcast.

"How many horses did you own when you lived there?"

"We had four horses."

For student films and podcasts, the thing that has always gotten in the way has been editing. It's difficult. It's expensive. Previously we mentioned the \$5 a month deal as students and teachers, and that makes Descript a lot cheaper than the other editing options out there, and it's simple to use.

And you can cancel it whenever. You don't have to sign up for a whole year. You can do it on a month to month basis. So this really solves the problem of editing.

So what's next?

Just go out and do it. Get your phones recording app, download Descript, and go practice. You can get some friends and all come together and try and learn what you're doing and have some fun with it.

Perfection is the killer of creativity, so don't try and be perfect the first time, or even the last time. Just keep learning.

On our website, there's a video on how to find someone in your community and how to tell their story. Any story, no matter how professionally done, is better than no story at all. So go out and tell that story.

The great storyteller Katherine Tucker Windham reminded us that we must save these stories before these stories are six feet under and gone forever.

So, you'll be doing your community and the world a great service by collecting the stories from the place where you live.

So once again, my name's Macey, I work at TheStoryAcorn.com, and if you want to reach me or any other team members, you can email

[TheStoryAcorn@gmail.com](mailto:TheStoryAcorn@gmail.com).

