Recording Lectures with Camtasia:
Removal of Background

Original PiP Video → Produced Video

Walter Leal, Department of MCB, UC Davis

@wsleal2014
Here I provide a brief guide on how to record lectures with Camtasia based on my previous experience preparing material for my classes. I will emphasize background removal.

Please note that good basic tutorials are available from Camtasia:

https://www.techsmith.com/tutorial-camtasia.html

Walter Leal, Department of MCB, UC Davis
Camtasia’s
Windows Homescreen
Macintosh Homescreeen
Terms used (nomenclature)

Canvas

Tools Panel

Timeline

Properties
Start Recording

Camtasia Recorder: Macintosh

Camtasia Recorder: Windows
Customize capture setting: if necessary, videos can be trimmed later.
Select camera & audio and Start Recording

When playing a video or animation with audio in your presentation, make sure you activate System Audio
On Macintosh: Stop, Pause, or Start Over your recording by clicking here on the top of your screen.

If you click stop, the Save panel on the right appears.

On Windows: click on this button →

The panel below will appear on the bottom, right.
Your recordings will appear in the Timeline

In this example, we have two tracks: Track 2 with my video (we call it Picture-in-Picture) and my audio; Track 1 captured my PowerPoint presentation (screen capture). Because I did not activate the System Audio, there is no audio in Track 1.
You can navigate through the recording by moving clicking and moving the Playhead.

If you right click on the Playhead, you can split the tracks and edit the videos. If you click on one of the tracks, it will be selected (see yellow box); right click on a selected track to Separate Video and Audio, if necessary.
Chemical ecology-based strategies for reducing mosquito-human interactions

Here is my Picture-in-Picture (PiP)

Now, let’s edit my PiP. First, let’s remove the background color so that I can blend PiP and the captured screen (presentation).
In the Tools Panel, click More on the bottom and select Visual Effects and scroll down to find Remove a Color. Drag the Remove a Color effect into the Track having your PiP (Track 2 in our case)
Go to the Property Panel on the right side

Click on Property and Scroll down to find Remove a Color. Click on the arrowhead. Now Select Color From Image
Bring the activated net to the top of the color you want to remove.
You can adjust Tolerance, Softness, Hue & Defringe. With PiP highlighted, select crop on the top of Canvas to trim your PiP. To enlarge or reduce it, select the arrow.
Further work is needed to remove this artifact
Another example

Original PiP Video

From Screen Capture

PiP after Color Removal

(Before Adjustments: Tolerance, Softness, etc)

Produced Video
PiP needs to be moved around to avoid overlap with displays
Split PiP Track: right click on Playhead and Split Selected Track

Now you can move PiP to a different location and resize it, if necessary
To avoid an abrupt change in PiP, insert a transition. Drag the desired transition to the PiP Track.
Clean up your Canvas (remove black boxes). Change the background color or adjust the settings (preferred). Make sure you click on crop on the top before right-clicking on Canvas to select Project Settings.
Chemical ecology-based strategies for reducing mosquito-human interactions

Walter S. Leal
Department of Molecular & Cellular Biology
University of California-Davis
Chemical ecology-based strategies for reducing mosquito-human interactions

Left-click on the dot, move the border towards the slide and click Apply to resize the Canvas.
Chemical ecology-based strategies for reducing mosquito-human interactions

Your project is now ready. Play one more time, save the project and export it as a video file on your computer
Select Local File; in the next screen, name your Video and choose where to save it.
On Windows, select Custom Production Setting from the dropdown menu.

Then, select MP4.
Lastly, name your video and choose Folder.
Your video is now ready to be shared with students

Purification of monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) by affinity chromatograph

Walter Leal

eClarification

https://youtu.be/xRvLLg1V938
For an example of a recorded lecture, see the 2019 Founders’ Memorial Award Lecture of the Entomological Society of America

Tom Eisner
an incorrigible entomophile and innovator par excellence

https://youtu.be/RYSPg-_geLY