For your video, podcast or slideshow

Can I use this sound or clip?

Start at 1 and work down
cleancutsvg.com/free-music-sound-effects-video-for-school-projects

1 **Did you record or film it yourself?**
Your own voice, your own footage, music you played.

YES → **Use it.**
It's yours. One catch: a song playing in the background of your clip still belongs to its owner.

NO ↓

2 **Is it *public domain* or *CC0*, or made by a U.S. federal agency?**
NASA and National Park Service recordings, for example.

YES → **Use it.**
No credit required, but say where it came from: "Sound: National Park Service."

NO ↓

3 **Does it have a Creative Commons license, like *CC BY*?**
The letters after "CC" tell you the rules. See the box below.

YES → **Use it and give credit.**
Write the title, author, source and license. Skip ND music for a video, and NC for a channel that earns money.

NO ↓

4 **Is it from a free site with its own license?**
Pixabay, Pexels, Mixkit, Coverr, ZapSplat and similar.

YES → **Read that site's license.**
The sites in our list allow school projects, posted online too. ZapSplat's free plan needs a credit.

NO ↓

5 **Is the license for education only?**
BBC Sound Effects is the common one.

YES → **Fine in class. Don't post it.**
Hand it in or play it at school. Uploading it to YouTube or social media breaks the license.

NO ↓

? **A song from Spotify or the radio, a clip from a movie, TV show or someone's YouTube video, and no license?**

THEN → **Don't post it.**
Ask your teacher: a short clip shown in class may be fair use, but online the video can be muted or blocked.

CREATIVE COMMONS LETTERS

BY
Give credit to the creator.

SA
Share your changed version under the same license.

NC
No money: fine for school, not for a monetized channel.

ND
No changes. Putting ND music under a video counts as a change.

HOW TO GIVE CREDIT: TASL

Title · **A**uthor · **S**ource (where you found it, with a link if it's digital) · **L**icense

Example: "Rain on a Tin Roof" by Sam Lee, from Freesound, CC BY 4.0. Put credits at the end of the video or in the description.

This chart covers U.S. school projects and is general information, not legal advice. When in doubt, ask your teacher or school librarian. Free to print and share. Checked October 9, 2026.