

Why do I need captions?

- They are needed to create a viewing experience for those who are disabled or hard of hearing.
 - It is a legal requirement of the American with Disabilities Act - <https://cielo24.com/2017/01/us-laws-for-captioning-online-video-ada/>
- Certain social media platforms (most importantly, Facebook) have an “auto-play” featuring that has a video automatically playing with muted sound.

Open vs. Closed captions

- Open Captions - Burnt onto image, permanently attached to video.
- Closed Captions - Can be enabled or disabled on video.
- Subtitles - Typically reserved for translations to different languages or direct transcriptions of words spoken on screen, no descriptions of non-verbal sounds.

Different kinds of caption files

There are many kinds of file formats for captions. Here are some of the more common ones you will encounter:

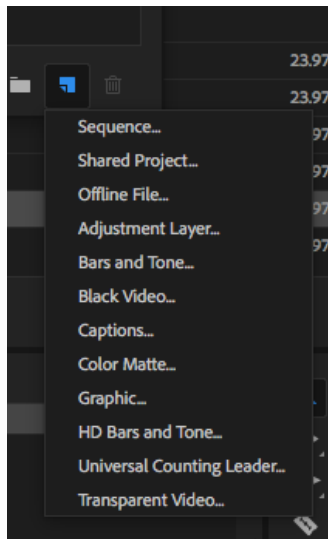
- **.srt** (SubRip Subtitle Script) - the most common caption file. Can be used for Youtube, Vimeo, and Facebook. Capable of editing the file in Premiere Pro, Notepad or TextEdit.
- **.scc** (Sonic Scenarist Closed Caption) - used for online platforms such as iTunes and Hulu as well as broadcast television.
- **.cap** (Cheetah Caption) - common caption file format for broadcast television.
- **.dfxp** (aka **.ttml** or **.xml**) - The official caption format for broadcasters publishing videos online.
 - However, a caption file with the **.xml** extension is called an SMPTE-TT file. These kinds of files are compliant with FCC broadcast regulations.

For more information on more types of caption files and the difference between them, [refer here](#).

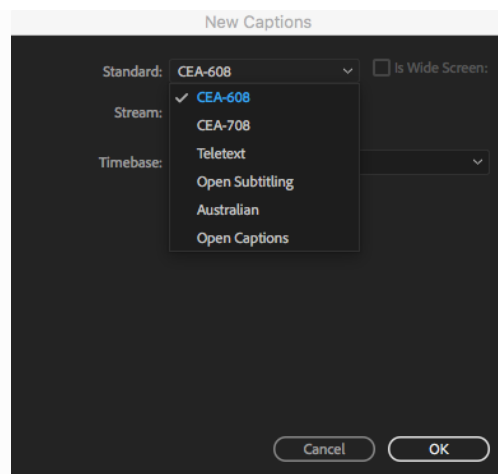
Creating captions on Premiere Pro

Creating and editing a caption file is very similar to editing video clips on your timeline

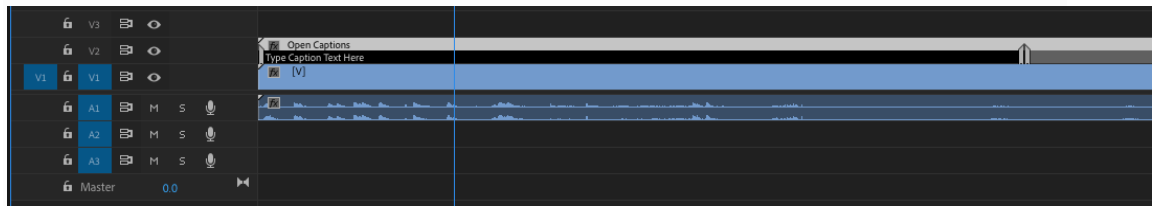
1. Click the New Item button in the Project Window and click “Captions”.



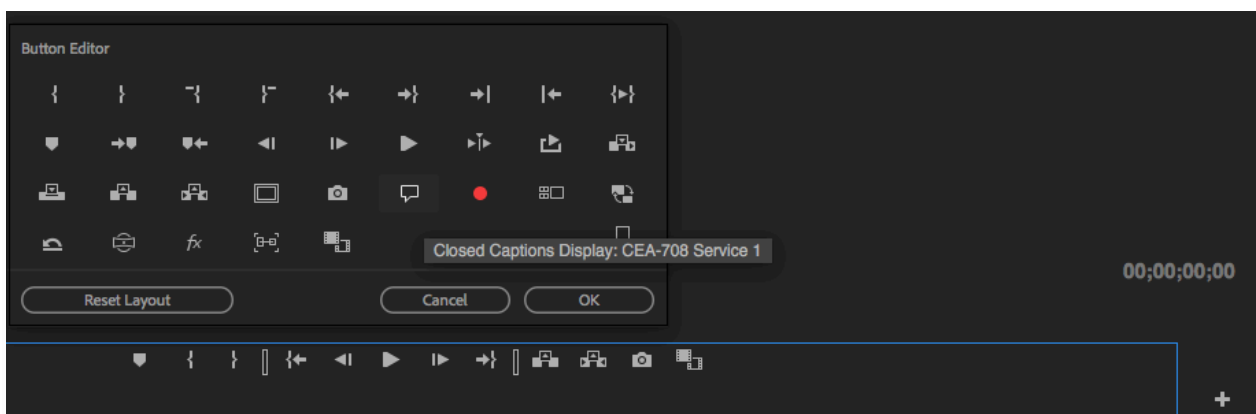
2. Input the settings for the captions you would like to create (including matching resolution and framerate). CEA-608 and CEA-708 will be your closed captions and Open Captions is self-explanatory.



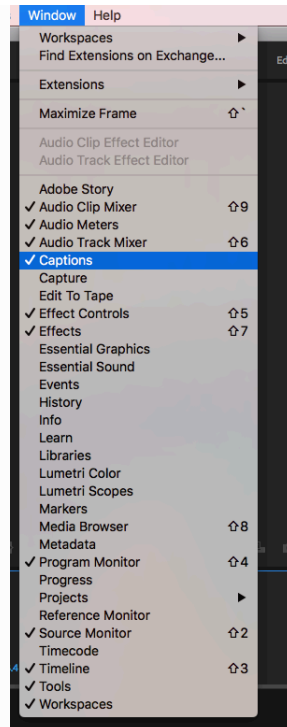
3. Place your caption clip on the topmost video track of the timeline.



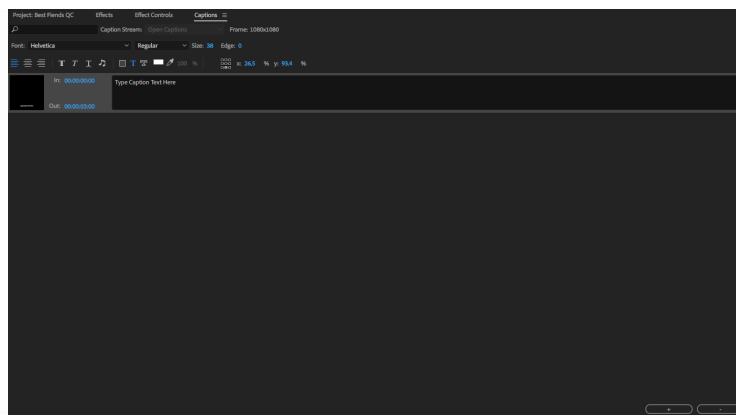
4. Click the Closed Caption Display button in the Button Editor in the Program Monitor to enable or disable closed captions.
 - a. Step 4 isn't necessary if you are using open captions, because you're burning the captions onto the image. There is no enabling or disabling.



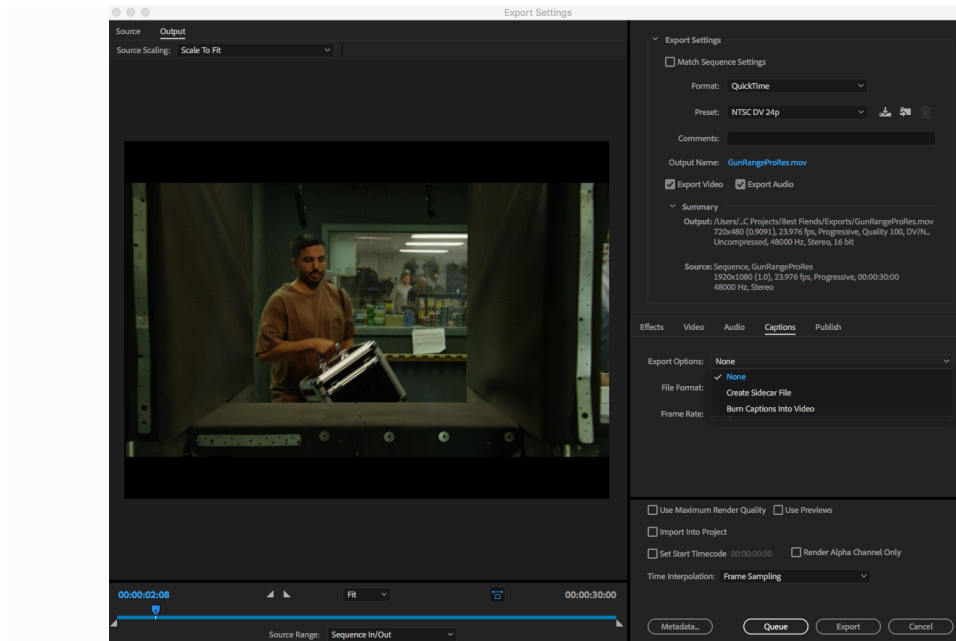
5. Double click the caption clip in the track and edit in the “Captions” window (can also be found by clicking “Window” at the top of the screen, then clicking “Captions”).



6. Type your captions, and add a new line of dialogue by clicking the “+” button in the lower right corner of the window.



7. To ensure the video will be exported with the captions, go to the “Captions” tab in Premiere or Media Encoder’s export window and set “Export Options” field to “Create Sidcar File” for closed captions or “Burn Captions into Video” for open captions.
 - a. A sidcar file is a file that is exported separately from your primary video file.

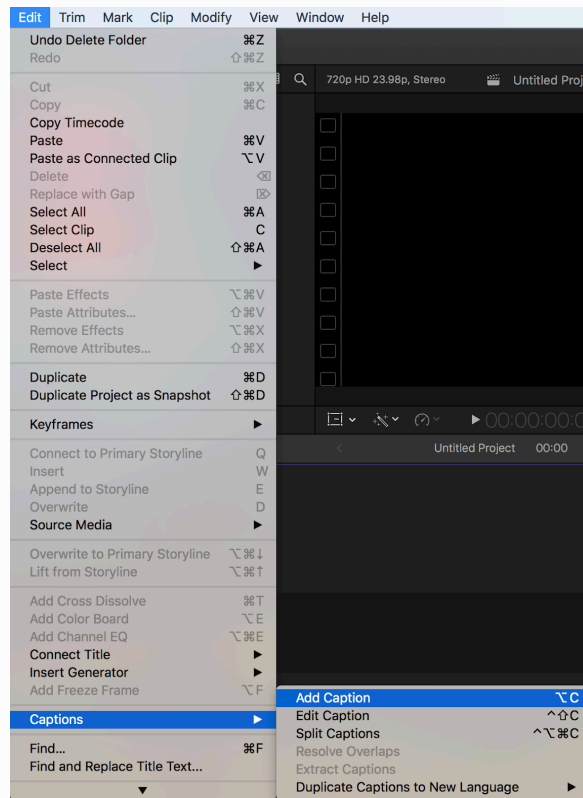


For more information, please refer to the below video or any other caption tutorial:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OdsotmvxVPY&t=291s>

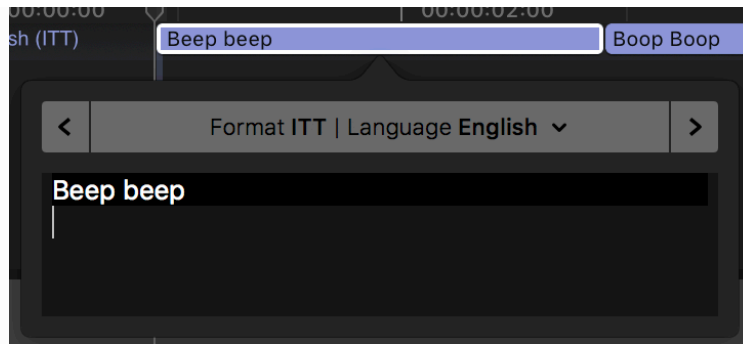
Creating captions on Final Cut Pro X

Before creating captions on Final Cut Pro X, please note that this can only be done on version 10.4.1 and later. Also, Final Cut can only export .ITT sidcar files which are a closed caption format, so it isn't possible to burn in captions.

1. To create captions, click Edit → Captions → Add Caption

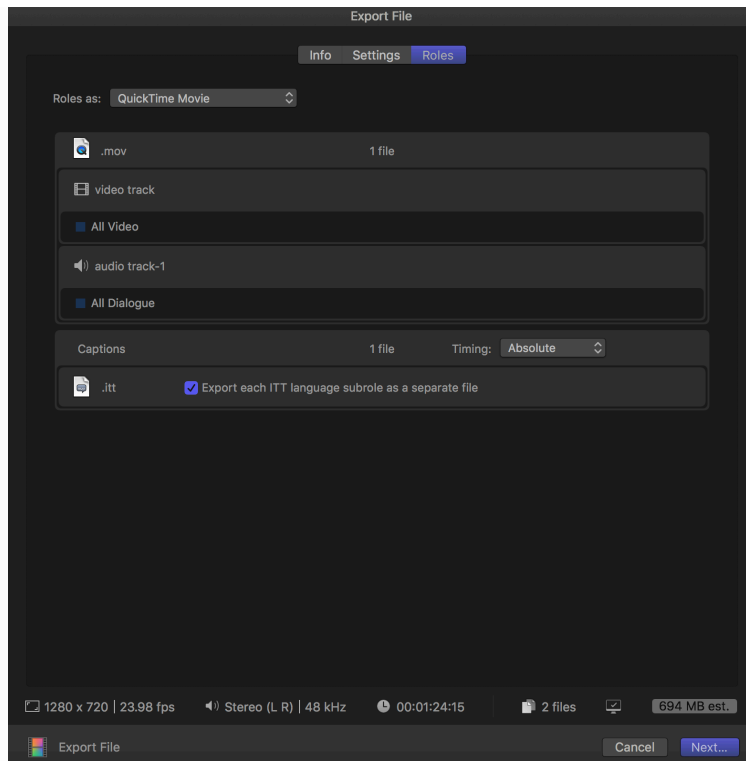


2. Caption blocks will appear directly below your timecode in your timeline. Double click this block to start typing your captions.



3. In order to create another caption block for the next line of dialogue, place your playhead where you would like the next caption to start in the timeline and repeat Step 1: (Edit → Captions → Add Caption)
4. You can click and drag these boxes in order to change the timing of the captions, as well as placing your mouse cursor on the edge of each block, the clicking and dragging to change the duration.
5. In order to export captions, there are two options:
 - Click File → Export Captions
 - When exporting a video, click Export File, in the Roles Tab you will see an option to “Export each ITT language subrole as a separate file,” make sure that box is checked off. When the video is exported, there will be a corresponding .ITT file.

(Note the difference between Relative and Absolute caption timing. Relative calculates each caption’s start time by subtracting from the video’s start timecode, while Absolute starts a caption at its designated start time regardless of the video’s timecode.)



For more on captions in Final Cut Pro X, you can start here
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=61&v=t7Sn1EpLfrC

Applications outside of editing software

[Aegisub](#) or [Subtitle Edit](#) are both open-source caption creation and editing tools and are free to use across various platforms.

Caption and Transcription services

[Rev.com](#)

Rev is our suggested captioning service. It is incredibly cost-effective at \$1/minute of video duration and has a very thorough caption editor on their site. Rev supports multiple kinds of caption files including .srt, .scc, .mcc, .ttml, .qt.txt, .txt, .vtt, .cap, .stl, .xml