CapCut Video Creation Guide

Durham Lake Defense — Simple Step-by-Step Instructions

Step 1 – Download & Unzip the Template

Download the ZIP file containing your Durham Lake CapCut Template. Right–click the ZIP and choose "Extract All…" (Windows) or double–click to unzip (Mac). Open the unzipped folder. You will see separate folders for Horizontal (YouTube) and Vertical (Shorts/TikTok).

Step 2 – Choose Your Format

Decide which version you want to create first: Horizontal (16:9) for regular YouTube videos, or Vertical (9:16) for YouTube Shorts, TikTok, and Reels. Open the matching folder.

Step 3 – Open CapCut & Create a New Project

Open CapCut on desktop or mobile. Click or tap "New Project". You will see an empty timeline ready for your media.

Step 4 – Import Template Files

In CapCut, go to the Media panel. Drag the contents of your chosen template folder into CapCut (Audio, Visuals, Captions, Overlays), or click "Import" and select the files manually.

Step 5 – Generate the Voiceover (Text-to-Speech)

Open the file 01_Audio / Voiceover_Script.txt and copy the full script. In CapCut, click Text → Text-to-Speech, paste the script, choose a strong, urgent male voice, then click "Generate". Drag the new voiceover audio to the start of your timeline.

Step 6 – Add Captions (Subtitles)

In CapCut, click Text → Captions → Import and select 04_Captions / captions.srt. CapCut will automatically create timed subtitles. Adjust font, size, and position as desired.

Step 7 – Add Your Images & Visuals

Open the 02_Visuals folder and import your symbolic image, Durham Lake photos, fire aftermath, and community images if needed. Use the 05_Edit_Map / Edit_Map.txt file as a guide for which images to place at what times.

Step 8 – Add On-Screen Text Overlays

Open the 03_Text_Overlays folder and review each overlay text file. In CapCut, click Text → Add Text, copy and paste the overlay text, and position it. Use bold white font with a dark shadow or stroke for readability.

Step 9 – Add Background Music

In CapCut, click Audio → Sounds (or import your own music). Choose a dramatic, documentary-style track. Lower the music volume to around 10–20% so the narration is clear. Add fade-in and fade-out.

Step 10 – Export Your Video

For YouTube (Horizontal): Resolution 1920 x 1080 (1080p), Aspect Ratio 16:9, Frame Rate 24 or 30 fps, Format MP4. For Shorts/Reels (Vertical): Resolution 1080 x 1920, Aspect Ratio 9:16, Frame Rate 30 fps, Format MP4. Click "Export" and save.

Step 11 – Upload to YouTube

Go to YouTube and click "Create" → "Upload Video". Select your exported file. Add a strong title, description, hashtags (e.g., #DurhamLake #HB96 #LandJustice). Upload your SRT captions file if you did not burn them into the video, then publish.