



# Walker's Rising Stars

## Background

The Walker's Rising Stars Scholarship Competition is funded by the Pinellas Education Foundation and noted Bay Area neurosurgeon, Dr. Jeffrey Walker. Through this program, scholarships will be awarded to the top arts students in Pinellas County Schools (as determined by the competition.) The competition and awards show are administered and produced by the Pinellas Education Foundation in partnership with Pinellas County Schools. The Ryan Wells Foundation will present Walker's Rising Stars scholarships in the Culinary Arts category.

There are 6 categories of the Walker's Rising Stars program:

- Dance
- Theatre
- Instrumental Music
- Vocal
- Visual Arts
- Culinary

## Applications

- **Students in all fields (other than culinary arts) will apply online at [www.pinellaseducation.org](http://www.pinellaseducation.org) . All applications must be submitted in their entirety by October 16, 2020 at 5 p.m.**
- The application process will be available to all Pinellas County Public School juniors and seniors.
- The application process will be publicized by the Pinellas Education Foundation and Pinellas County Schools through print and social media as well as school announcements.
- The culinary aspect of the program is directed by the Ryan Wells Foundation and all inquiries about the culinary competition should be directed to them.

## Judges

- Judges for all phases of the adjudication process in the fields of dance, vocal, instrumental, theater, and visual arts will be selected based on their ability to fairly and professionally represent and judge all genres in each category.
- There will be a minimum of 5 judges in each performing category for the preliminary round. To ensure impartiality, the top and bottom score for each competitor will be eliminated, with the final score being the total of the middle 3 scores for each competitor (sometimes referred to as Olympic judging).
- Every effort will be made to secure judges for the semi-final and final rounds who do not have a current affiliation with Pinellas County Schools. Judges cannot be a current private instructor of a contestant.

- For the semi-final and final competition there will be a minimum of 3 judges in each performing category, with the final score for each competitor being the total of the combined judges' scores. Judges will deliberate to determine placements in the event of ties.

### Preliminary Performing Arts Auditions

Preliminary auditions will be held for the performing arts categories (instrumental, theatre, vocal and dance) via a student-submitted YouTube video, a link to which must be included in the student's initial application. Judges' scores will determine which students advance to the semi-final round of the competition. Visual arts students will be invited to submit their portfolios to an online application for adjudication by a panel of expert judges.

- Students applying in the fields of vocal, instrumental, dance, and theatre must submit their YouTube video audition link with the online application.
  - If using a cell phone to record, please record horizontally.
  - If possible, record your audition in front of a plain, solid background.
  - Make sure you have good lighting to record your video.
  - Video framing should be appropriate to your performance (close up for stationary monologue, wide shot for dance, etc.)
  - At the beginning of your video introduce yourself, give the name of your school and the name of your performance piece or pieces.
  - Upload your YouTube video as UNLISTED before cutting and pasting the link into your Walker's Rising Stars application in the box provided.
  - The link to your YouTube audition video must remain active until after the Walker's Rising Stars final competition in May 2021.
- All performing arts competitors are asked to perform 2 contrasting pieces.
- **Each competition performance should be no more than three minutes in length, the total being no more than 6 minutes in length for the two contrasting pieces.**
- Competitors will be judged on their overall skill, creativity, and artistic expression.
- Students are encouraged to choose their best work. Do not choose works that are more difficult than your current level of proficiency to impress the judges.
- Auditions are open to **SOLOISTS ONLY**.
- Participants must be in good standing with Pinellas County Schools and in compliance with the Student Code of Conduct.
- **Due to the abbreviated competition necessitated by the public health emergency in May 2020, all Walker's Rising Stars performing and visual arts finalists who were juniors in 2020 may compete in the 2020/21 competition.**

### Semifinal Performing Arts Auditions

Following the judging of the preliminary audition videos, semi-finalists will be notified and judges' critiques provided to the advancing semi-finalists.

Based on scoring of the preliminary auditions, a maximum of **20 students from each performance category\*\*** will move on to the semifinal round.

- Based on preliminary audition scores, **the top student from each Pinellas County public high school that is represented among the preliminary competitors in each category will automatically be included for judging in the semi-final round (total of up to 16).**
- **The remaining slots in each category (up to a maximum of 20) will be filled with the remaining top competitors in each category based on individual scores, regardless of school.**
- **If competitors are not available from each high school, the top student from each competing school will advance to the semifinals and the remaining slots will be filled with the top scoring competitors from the remaining pool.**
- Same rules from the preliminary auditions will apply to the competitors for each discipline.

Dance and Theatre semi-final auditions will be held in conjunction with the District 4, ITS Thespian Event at Gibbs High School. **See Note Below.**

Instrumental semi-final auditions will be held in conjunction with the FBA and FOA Solo and Ensemble Music Performance Assessment at Gibbs High School. **See Note Below**

Vocal semi-final auditions will be held in conjunction with the FVA Solo Performance Ensemble Assessment at Gibbs High School. **See Note Below**

**(Note: Live auditions for this round of the competition will be based on the school district's response to the COVID19 public health emergency at the time of the scheduled auditions. Should live auditions not be possible, students will be contacted with information on an alternate format for the subsequent rounds of the competition.)**

\*\*Note: Tie scores may require the adjustment of this maximum number.

### **Visual Arts Applications and Judging**

- Students will be judged in one round.
- Students will need to submit an application by October 16, 2020 at 5 p.m.
- Instructions for the submission of your portfolios will be sent to visual arts competitors following the application deadline.
- **Students will submit their art work no later than January 12, 2021 to the Pinellas Education Foundation online site.**
- Students must submit a total of 5 pieces to be adjudicated (no more and no fewer)
- Judging will take place in February of 2021.
- A minimum of 3 judges with one alternate will be needed to complete judging.
  - Judges cannot have a current affiliation with Pinellas County Schools
  - Judges cannot be a current private instructor of a contestant

## **Final Judging**

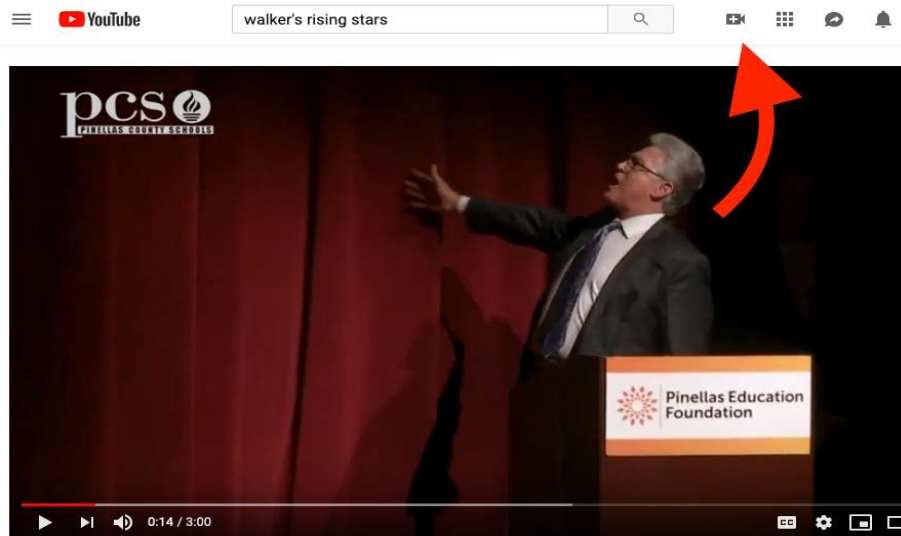
The date and location for the final judging has not yet been determined.

- Based on the semifinal audition scores, the top students in each category will advance to the final live performance round of competition.
- **No Pinellas County public high school may be represented by more than 2 students in each category in the final round.**
- **If the scores of more than 2 students from a single school would place them among the finalists, the lowest scoring students will be eliminated from competition and the next highest scoring student from the remaining schools will advance into the final position in each category.**
- **Semifinalists not selected to advance to the finals will be invited to participate in rehearsals and the live performance of a production number which will be performed at the Walker's Rising Stars final show in May.**

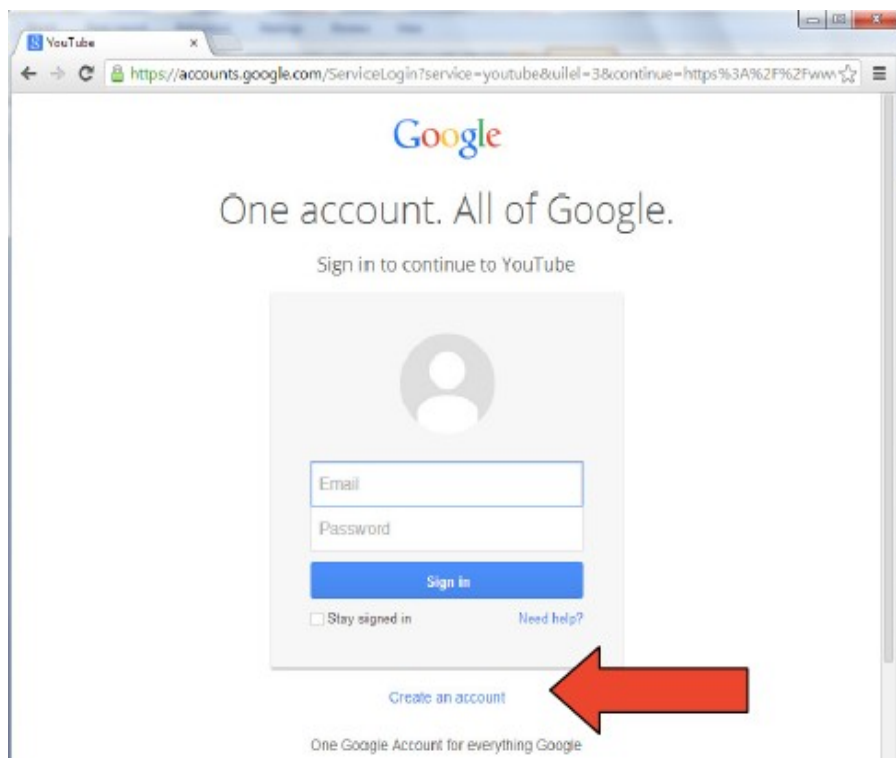
**(Note: Live auditions for this round of the competition will be based on the school district's response to the COVID19 public health emergency at the time of the scheduled final competition. Should a live competition not be possible, finalists will be contacted with information on the format for the final competition.)**

## How to Upload Your Audition Video to YouTube

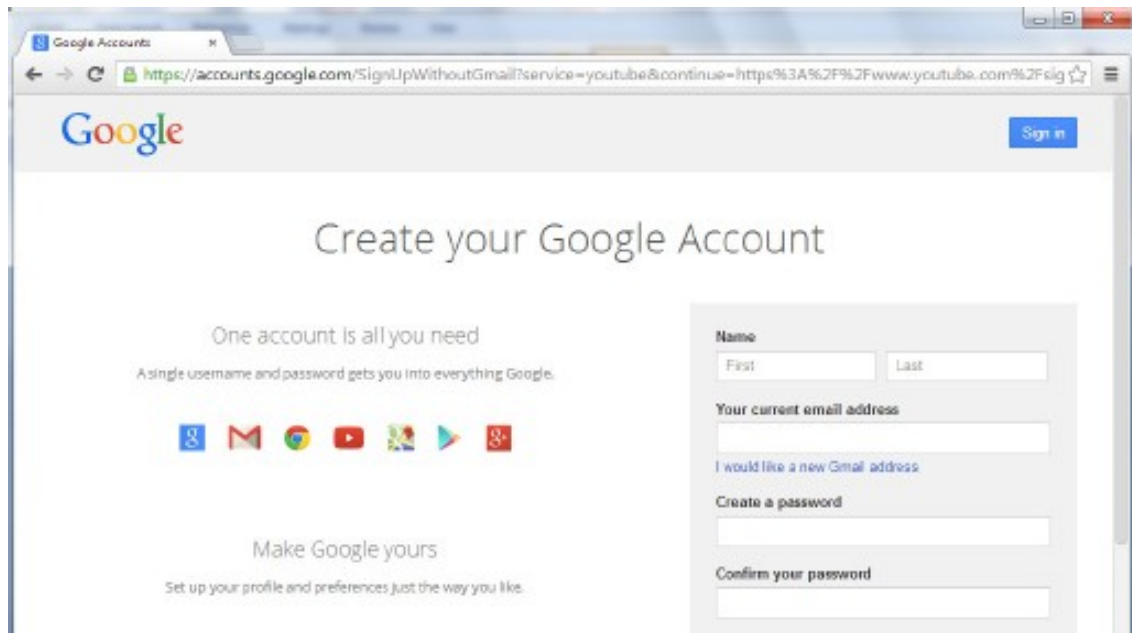
1. Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and click the camera icon and select UPLOAD in the top righthand corner.



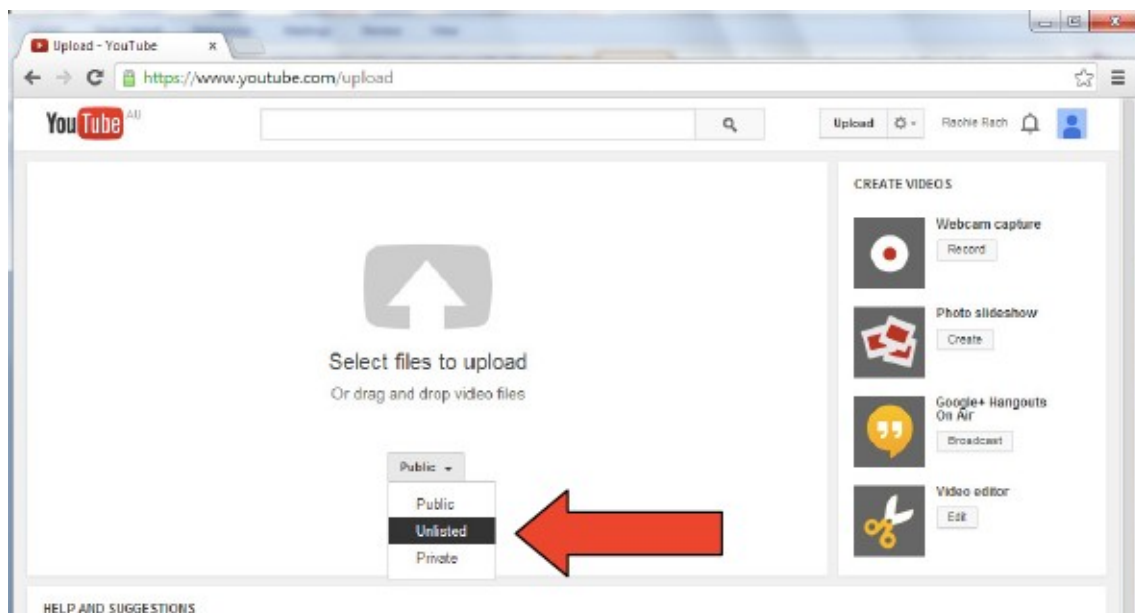
2. If you already have a Google account, then enter your email and password. If you don't, you'll need to create one by clicking on "Create an account" (see arrow).



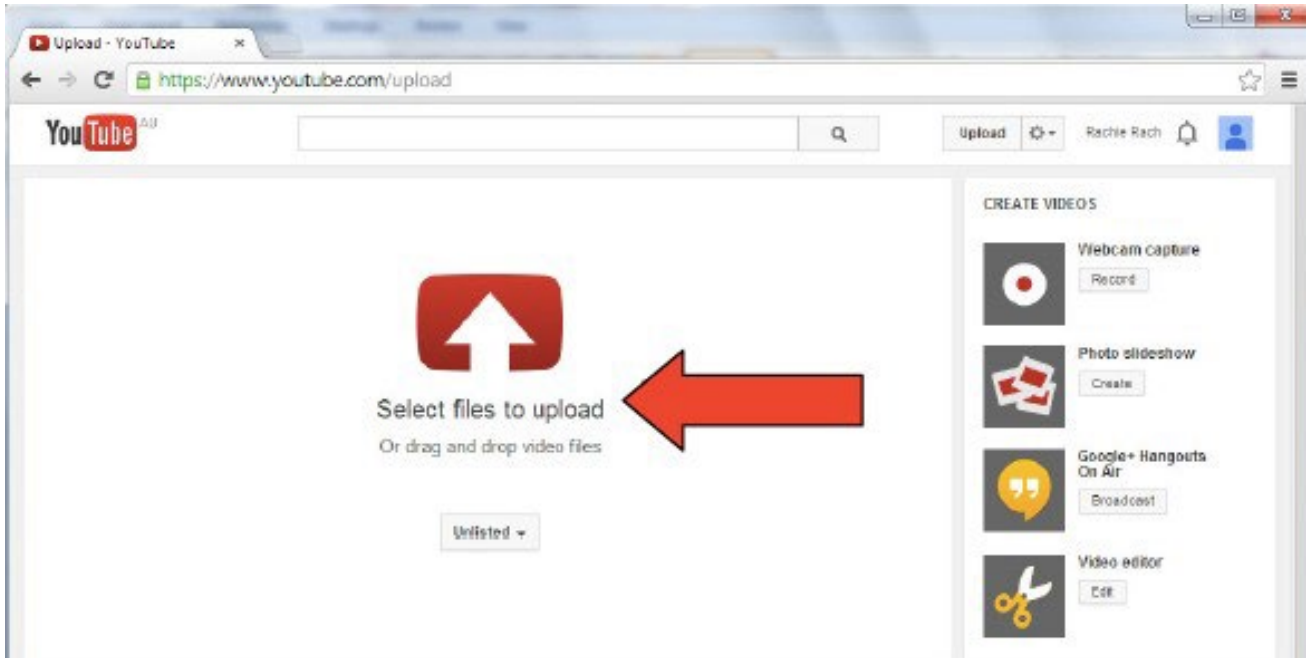
3. For those creating an account, enter your details.



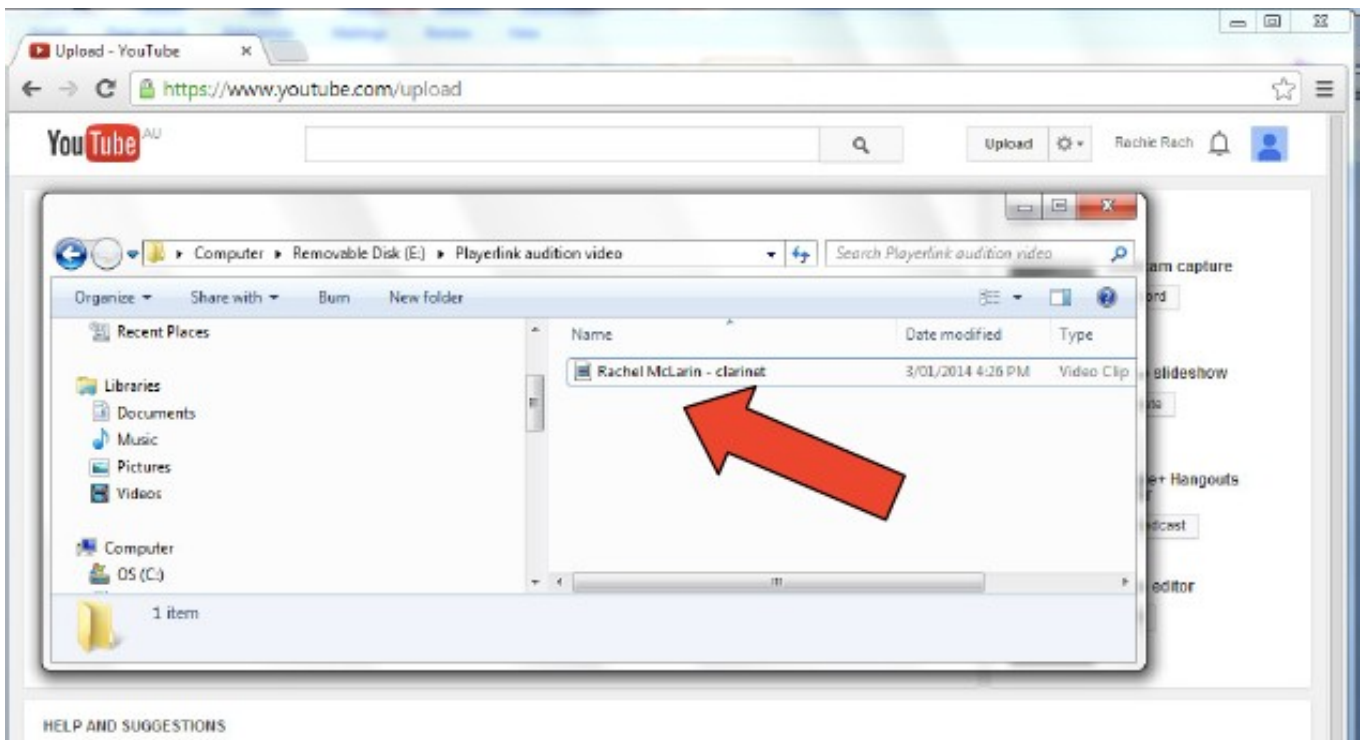
4. Once you've signed in you should get a screen that looks like this. IMPORTANT: Click on the dropdown box and select "unlisted." This will ensure that your audition video is not publicly visible.



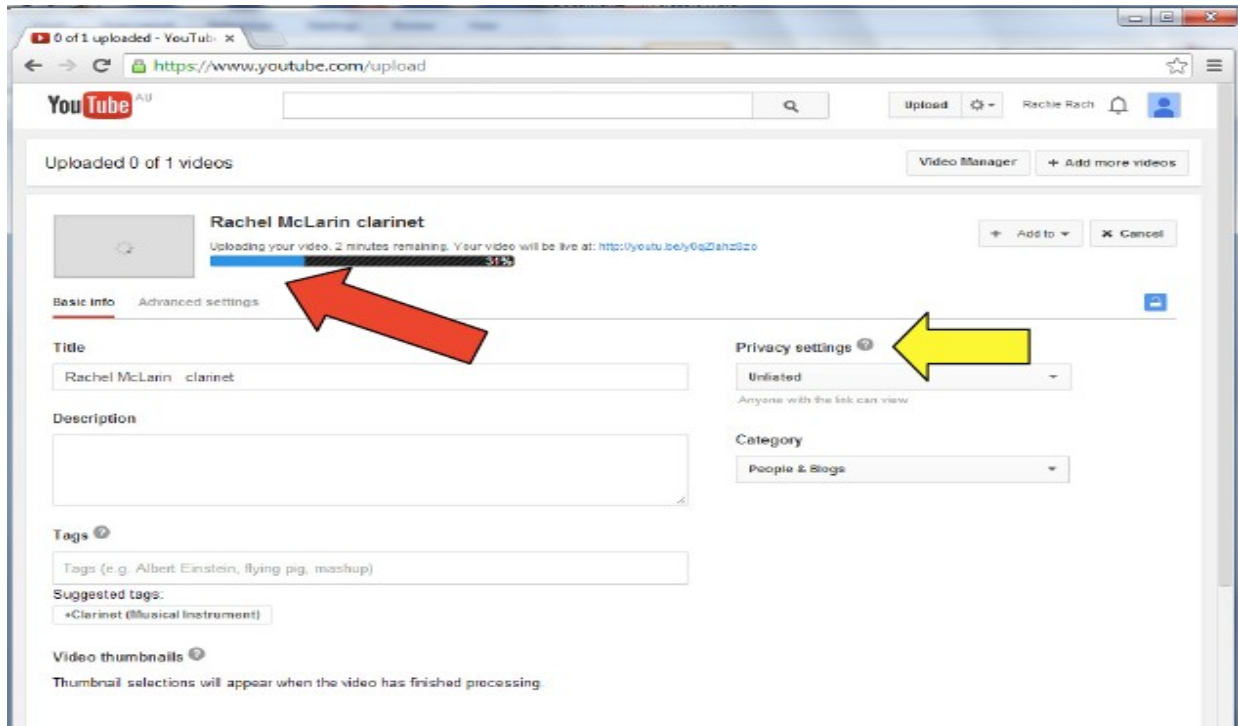
5. Now you're ready to upload your video. Click on "Select Files to Upload."



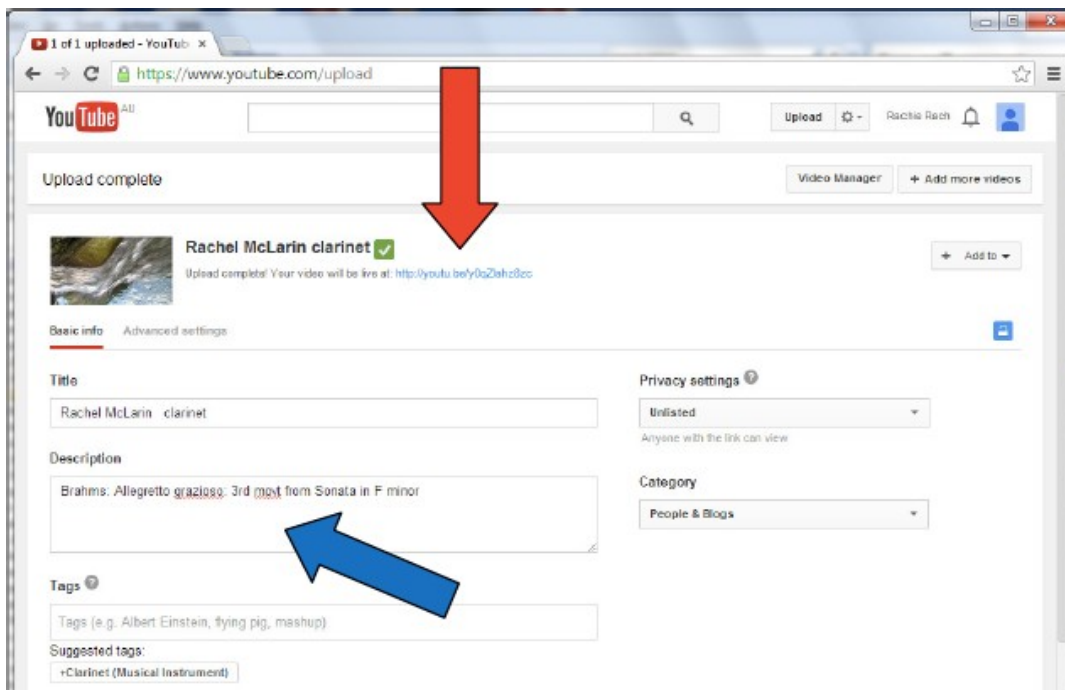
6. Navigate to where your video is stored on your computer and select your video.



7. Your video will start to upload. It may take a few minutes (red arrow). NB: Make sure that “unlisted” is showing under the privacy settings (yellow arrow).



8. Enter in the “Title” box (blue arrow) your name. Once your video has uploaded, copy the link (red arrow) to your application for submission.



9. If you have any problems uploading your video, please contact Michael Vetter [vetterm@pcsb.org](mailto:vetterm@pcsb.org). We will do what we can to help. Thank you for applying to Walker's Rising Stars.