

## **Audio Essay assignment description**

Draft due Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup> for workshop

**Due Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

We have been listening to radio shows, podcasts, Moth stories, Ted Talks, and interviews and discussing sound, oral storytelling, and the emotional appeal of the human voice. Think about what topics might fit well in an audio-only essay. Something that could be told emotionally or humorously (think of Watsky or Irby) through vocal expression, and perhaps the addition of background music or sound effects. You might also consider adding interviews or blurbs from other voices to your work here. Have questions you would like to ask someone (or multiple people) and build a narrative around? Have a meaningful or emotionally powerful story you would like to tell with the expressive sound of your voice? Have a hilarious story you always tell your friends? Now it the time to record it for posterity.

### **Method**

We will be learning Audacity, a free and accessible audio editor, for this project. After learning the ropes and deciding on a topic, I recommend an outline with the addition of where in the text you will be adding sound or interviews or music, etc. Practice reading your writing aloud (we speak differently than we write). I suggest recording in bite-sized pieces (paragraphs). If you try to record a full five minutes at once, you will undoubtedly find yourself very frustrated (trust me). This will also be easier for revision and rerecording when you get to that stage.

You will want to do all of your recording outside of class, but we should have some time for editing in class (bring headphones). There are audio recorders available in the lab for check-out. If you are planning for interviews, make sure you give yourself plenty of time to set these up and get them done (especially due to the additional challenge of ANY in-person activities right now).

As with any technology, there will be hiccups and tweaks, make sure you plan extra time for this. We will also spend some time in class working on these together.

Here is a quick and easy Audacity tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aCisC3sHneM>

### **Length & format**

**Approx. 1200-1300 words (5ish pages = 5-10 minutes)** (again, difficult to nail down with digital work). Audio work gives you a great opportunity for interviews, sound effects, and musical composition. Be creative! This assignment is worth **20%** of your final grade.