

Podcast Series Assignment

This final assignment asks you to put the knowledge and skills you have been working on into practice by composing a short podcast series. The full project will include the following components: a short proposal, three podcast episodes, and a final report that details plans for moving forward with the series. In general, a podcast series is characterized by its focus on a specific topic, a method of exploring topics, or an ongoing performance of a particular person or set of people. Your podcast series will attempt to replicate this serial nature through three episodes.

The podcast series will require three episodes that each focus on a different aspect of or angle on your overall series. In addition to this particular angle that you develop, each episode will also be attached to a single “productive constraint” that you can address as simply and directly or as creatively as you wish.

Podcast 1 – Interview

This episode will include an interview with a subject whose expertise or experience relates to your podcast series. The interview can be the primary focus of the episode or be a snippet or section of it. It can also be a fictional interview if your podcast takes place in a story world.

Podcast 2 – Remix/Remediation

This episode will include a mix sounds found online. These may come from free download sites, videos, music MP3s, or other podcasts. Anything. Again, they may simply form the background to your dialog or story or they may be front and center and swerve toward sound art. Especially if your podcast is centered on sound, do something experimental.

It is also possible to remediate something from print to audio—another reading from SSR; a short story from another class; a how-to or tips list on PR. Again, anything. Remediating from a print essay into an audio-only composition will require many choices. Don’t simply record yourself reading an essay. Instead, examine the chosen piece for central arguments, themes, topics, metaphors, examples, and any number of items to revise into some combination of sound: voice, music, noise, ambience, etc. The point for this option is not to capture exactly what the essay says in terms of content but to reenact what it does in a new medium.

Podcast 3 – Field Recording

This episode will include recorded sound from a specific site, place, or location. This could simply be used as the ambient background for your episode or it may figure prominently as the focus, such as recording 12 seconds or 4 bars of an alarm and turning it into sound art. Feel free to be creative but make sure you use something that you physically record in person.

Remember, each episode should run 3-5 minutes only. This is not very long. You'll really need to plan and focus to make the most out of each episode. Use a written out script to achieve this specificity and focus. Think of each episode as a 3-5 minute pop song that gets right to the point and has a clear purpose, structure, and hooks.

You will post these episodes publicly as a series on Soundcloud. Please think of them as working together as a series and something other people might actually stumble onto through the tags and metadata that you ascribe to your series and episodes.

Proposal

Like the Podcast Analysis Proposal, this proposal should be one-page single-spaced (typed) and run roughly 300-500 words. It will also be a participation grade with 1-5 participation points. Its main purposes are a) to prepare you for the Podcast Series, and b) to give me a chance to give you some initial feedback. Run down this bulleted list to develop a solid paragraph or so as an "abstract" for your series:

- Give your series a Title and a Tagline (Serial – One story, week by week).
- Identify and discuss the topic and focus that will characterize your podcast.
- Sketch an outline or initial idea for each of the three episodes.
- List required tools that you will need or things that you will need to record.

Final Report

This will be a short, one-page report that reflects on your podcast project by describing your final products, assessing them in relation to your initial aims, and developing a distribution and promotion strategy for moving forward with the series. We will discuss this near the end of the semester when it comes around.