

HUL 100—Oral Communication and the Non-Native Speaker

Spring 1, 2005

Final Project: Audio Portraits and Radio Diaries

Hello HULers!

It's time to start thinking about and planning for your final project, which is a continuation of the audio recording and transcribing you've been doing all semester.

To complete the final project, you'll need a computer, Internet access and your tape recorder. (If you don't have a computer and Internet access at home, go to the LaGuardia Library or the Speech Center and use one of the computers in either location. You can also take a look at the LaGuardia website, where you will find the location of all of the Computer Labs on the LaGuardia campus and when they have open lab times. Open lab means that any LaGuardia student with a valid ID card can use the computer.)

Once you have logged onto the Internet, go to: **www.radiodiaries.org**

Scroll down to the section that has a picture of The Teen Reporter Handbook.

Click on this picture. You will get a list dial includes the following sections:

- Introduction
- Basic Principles
- Technical Tips
- Interviewing
- The Gear
- Web Resources
- Youth Radio Resources
- About Teenage Diaries
- Download the Handbook .PDF
- Order your own Handbook

Read: Introduction, Basic Principles, Technical Tips and Interviewing. If you have access to a printer, download and print the Handbook. It's 20 pages. This might make your reading assignments easier.)

Now return to the home page for Radio Diaries and have a look at the categories of stories:

- New York Works: Audio Portraits of a Vanishing City
- Prison Diaries
- Teenage Diaries
- Other Documentaries

Notice that each category has a group of stories and that each story has an image, a text that includes a summary of the story, an audio file with the story and a transcript of the audio.

Your final project will be modeled on one of these stories. In other words, you will record audio story, and save it in a file, transcribe the audio to create a transcript, select an image that represents the content of your audio, and write a summary of your audio.

These four components will then become part of the HUL 100 Audio Stories that will be archived on my website: <http://faculty.lagcc.cuny.edu/eheppner> (You will also be able to save your files in folders that can be uploaded to an ePortfolio site.)

Once you have read the assigned parts of The Teen Reporter Handbook, start listening to various audio projects on the Radio Diaries Website.

- New York Works: Audio Portrait of a Vanishing City—Water Tank
- Prison Diaries--Matthew and the Judge: Juvenile Court Diary
- Teenage Diaries—Frankie in Mentone, Alabama: Football
- Other Documentaries— Deported: Weazel 'S Diary

Answer the following questions about each story:

1. Explain what you liked about the story. What details made the story come alive?
2. How did you feel while you were listening to the story?
3. What were you thinking about as you listened?
4. How long is each story?
5. What made each story unique?

Now take time to think about the people you've interviewed so far this semester and the audio transcript assignments you've completed. Are there any that could be developed into fuller, more detailed and interesting stories similar to the ones you listened to? Is there someone in the class whose culture you're curious about? Or someone at LaGuardia you'd like to interview?

Your final audio project can be an audio portrait of someone you already know or someone you'd like to know more about or you can create a radio diary of your own life, your story. You decide. The important thing is that you choose a topic or a person that interests you and that when you record the story you do not read it, but you tell it in a conversational style, in your voice.

Ask questions. Listen. Observe. Learn. Have fun.

(I'll announce specific due dates next week in class. This project will be worth 325 points.)