

Aurality project (~3 - 4 minutes)

[Audacity Basics](#)

Choose one aspect of your interview (a particular theme, question, story, experience, etc.) and compose a focused audio segment that engages and challenges the listener. By the end, it should approach a larger relevance or understanding.

If you choose a narrative format, immerse the listener in that story. Build setting. Build tension.

If you choose a more nonfiction or journalistic format, create curiosity and interest. Contextualize your interviewee's experience. What can we learn from your interviewee?

As we saw in "Don't Call it the Badlands," these approaches can be blended and a piece could use both approaches.

If you choose a personal reflective format, use pathos to connect with your listeners. Why is this narrative, this interview significant to you and your relationship with the interviewee? How has this impacted or deepened that relationship?

You can take a literal approach -- think StoryCorps, "Don't Call it the Badlands" and other podcasts, radio news segments, audio essays -- or a nonliteral approach -- an abstract exploration or meditation, a remix, or something similar to the audio layering and repetition of "The Olive Project's" video.

You may (and may need to) include your own narration, though this is not required. This could be used to provide transitions, context, summarize key information, or provide reflection. You may also use other existing audio clips, if applicable. However, most of the audio should be that of your interviewee from your interview and each added component should serve a specific and identifiable rhetorical purpose.

In order to capitalize on the affordances of the medium and mode, **you must incorporate music and at least one sound effect in an effective way**. Sound effects are not limited to brief single bursts (like glass shattering, explosions, slamming door). They can also be ambient noise intended to set the atmosphere. Think crickets on a summer night, droning machinery of a factory, or a busy city soundscape. These also must serve a specific and identifiable rhetorical purpose.

Think of your intended audience: both family members who may be familiar with and invested in the stories of your interviewee and unfamiliar strangers. How can you make it accessible, engaging, and relevant to both audiences? Why should your audience care?

This should **not** just be a clip simply cut from your interview. That interview audio is your base upon which you will build using specific strategies for a specific purpose. You must show

rhetorical intention. The entire world of sound is at your disposal. A successful project will utilize the mode's affordances to create a unique and effective text distinct from that of other modes.

Audio Resources:

<http://www.freesound.org/browse/tags/ambient/>

<http://freemusicarchive.org/>

<https://creativecommons.org/about/program-areas/arts-culture/arts-culture-resources/legalmusicforvideos/>