

Tips for Successfully Completing Final Project // ENG 380W//JSA and CZ

1. Here is a short list of sound studies methodologies that will be helpful to think about using, although don't be afraid to combine them in interesting ways and/or to think up a new practice. There should be easily accessible articles describing all of these practices on the internet and/or through MetaLink at Binghamton.

Sound Diaries
Soundwalks
Remixing
Interviews and Oral History
Games/Gaming
Site-Based Installation

Sound Provocations
Field Recording
"close listening"
Soundscape logging
Apps/Interactive Experiences
Live Performance

2. Keep your project simple. Don't have too many moving parts. Concentrate on it being manageable and focused. You don't need to discover a cure all here, but rather a targeted intervention. Problems and solutions come in many sizes.

3. Talk to local people—they are the people with a deep knowledge of the area's conflicts and assets. Meeting the right person can have a HUGE impact on your project. Also, don't rely on electronic communication to reach your community members. You need to. . .gasp. . .go F2F! That's right—aim for face-to-face contact when you meet and discuss your project. And don't forget to invite them to the final presentation!

4. When you meet your community members, make sure that you don't promise them too much. Make it clear from the beginning that you are researching the viability of some sound-based community interventions that will not actually be performed this semester and some not at all.

5. Remember to take into account social differences in listening—this will be key to your project's success.

6. Be aware of and concerned with the area's history. The BU library has a few year's worth of issues of the *Press and Sun Chronicle*, which will be helpful, as will your community members. There are also various Historical Societies in the surrounding areas.

7. Some things take time, particularly community building. If you all put in a minimum of 4 hours a week on the project (the amount of time you would usually spend reading) starting today—you will be in good stead (that's 16 hours a week total!). Work like this cannot be done last minute.

8. ASSETS! ASSETS! Remember to build on enhancing *strengths*, not defects!

9. Remember the ever-helpful *Sounding Out!* blog for inspiration and ideas. In addition to the blog posts you read by Nancy Morales and Linda O'Keeffe, that we have already discussed, check out work by Maile Colbert (esp. "Listening to Disaster" and "Wayback Sound Machine"), Emmanuelle Sontag and Bronwen Low ("Deejaying her Listening: Learning through Life Stories of Human Rights Violations"), Jentery Sayers ("Audio Culture Studies: Scaffolding a Sequence of Assignments") and Lilian Radovac ("À qui la rue?: On Mégaphone and Montreal's Noisy Public Sphere"). And there's lots, lots, lots more! <soundstudiesblog.com>

POSTER GUIDELINES

**You may use a pre-formed presentation board with three panels (dimensions 36 X 48)
Visual attractiveness is up to you, but here are the “must haves.”**

FIRST PANEL: SECTIONS ON ISSUE

- Identify Issue
- Identify Stake Holders
- Asset Map (Christie will discuss how to do this, and the instructions are also in the article assigned for class by Kretzman and McKnight)

SECOND PANEL: SECTIONS ON PROJECT IDEA

- Description of Project
- Sound Studies Methodologies
- List and description of community partners
- Description of process
- Timeline for project

THIRD PANEL: PROJECTED OUTCOMES

- Description of projected outcomes (be as specific as possible and quantify when you can)
- Conclusions about what you learned from 1) the class project, 2) The group process and 3) from and about the community.

BENCHMARKS

Here are some helpful check points to keep you on track and focused during our class worktimes.

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| 22 nd April (CZ visits) | Issues Brainstorm—leave class with your issue chosen, division of labor discussed, and workflow planned out (Google Drive? Blackboard? Dropbox?) |
| 29 April (CZ visits) | Rough draft of Asset Map |
| 1 May | Stakeholders and Community Partners Identified and Contacted |
| 6 May (CZ visits) | Outline of Project |
| 8 May | Rough draft of Poster and Presentation, Make plans to finalize before Tuesday, May 13 th ! |