

## AUDIO COLLAGE Transcript

### Fall 2022 Student Perspectives on “Writing with Sound”

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**Paolo:** “I think something that we get caught up in these days is visual storytelling. Every piece of media has visuals that accompany it. Sports teams, TV shows, movies, YouTube videos, Tik Toks. The list goes on and everyone is worried about the graphics and the cinematography and everything that has to do with painting a more vivid image and adding the newest HD screen. But there’s a whole other side to storytelling that I got much more comfortable and familiar with in this class, which is the art of pure audio. And I don’t think many people realize how important the art of sound is in creating a feeling. Music, sound effects, and even lack of sound are all so important.

**Caitlyn:** At the beginning of the class we learned a lot about different types of podcasts and listened to a lot of different podcasts and learned how to use different sound effects and music to enhance an episode but not make it sound cheesy. And along with that, before we actually started writing our script for our own podcast, we learned how to tell a story through audio and learned a little bit more about writing a script for a podcast and how to write for the ear instead of write for someone to actually read, which was something I haven’t really ever done before I’ve always written very analytical papers and I’ve never written a script for anything. It was even different from having to give a presentation or a speech because there are no visuals at all. So that was definitely a new experience.

**Bryson:** We’ve, like as a group, had to go back and change so many things. Like, we’ll sit down and we’ll write a ton for our transcript and then we’ll read it over and be like “wow this is not interesting, this is not keeping anyone’s attention.” And so just like learning not to write super textbook-y and more for what you would want to hear.”

**Maggie:** I was one of the script writers for my podcast so I spent a lot of time with the writing and I kind of had to go through a bit of a different editing process than I usually do because I was reading out loud and thinking about how this would be spoken and how it translated to the podcast rather than how it kind of like translated information if you’re just reading it rather than hearing it out loud.

**Sebastian:** Um, I’ve never thought about writing for a podcast. I’ve written for, say, a presentation, for persuasive research...but writing for a podcast was very different and it was something I honestly really enjoyed.

**Jade:** I feel like I’ve learned a lot this past semester and it’s crazy because it still kind of feels like it just started. It was just August where we were coming to class in person and listening to those other podcasts and learning what it would be like to start creating our own. And at the time I definitely did not feel prepared to take on a whole podcast project of my own and I didn’t know what to expect because I had no experience with podcasts, producing, or writing for the ear, but I feel like a lot of our assignments and just what we talked about in class really prepared us.

**Kathia:** I just thought it was structured very well with the first half of the semester giving us time to develop certain skill sets and then listen to podcasts and sort of analyze them to determine what was effective in engaging listeners. And then giving us the second half of the semester to develop our own episodes.

**Jeremy:** And making an engaging story is really really hard. I think I tend to think of stories in a very linear fashion. And so making an engaging podcast I think requires getting a little creative in how you tell stories. And that was something I definitely learned as the semester went on.

**Raneem:** This is a very multifaceted class, so you learn so many elements of the process of producing a podcast. So there's the journalism side of it, so researching, investigating, interviewing. That's a ton of fun and I had some experience with that before, and, you know, I loved learning more about that and continuing to do that. And then there's also the audio production element of it, so you know audio design, how to engage an audience through a relatively new and rapidly changing medium, how to tell a good story, how to communicate effectively.

**Prachi:** So I remember when I was interviewing some people for our podcast, I remember understanding just how important silence is. And I learned that people are willing to give a lot more than you think they will. You just need to give them the time, the space to do that. And I think that's something really important that I learned in this class.

**Mimi:** It was really cool just to like learn about podcasting as an art and appreciate it. I feel like a lot of the podcasts I listen to at least are more conversation-based and I haven't listened to scripted podcasts as much, so getting an opportunity to work on something like that it really makes you learn how to write for the ear and how different that is, and how important the use of sound is. And your sound choices, where you put certain things, where you put certain interviews. And having the professional podcasters come in I think was really really cool because they gave us critiques that I hadn't even thought about, and ways to make things feel more like a story and ways I would've never guessed. And that was really cool, being able to just appreciate podcasting as an art form.

**Raymond:** So I learned a lot of different invaluable things in this class. I think one of the first things I learned was about how much thought and detail and method goes into creating a podcast. Because it's not just recording a person talking or just like a conversation between two people. It's...there's so much that goes into the music, the editing, the audio design, the use of narrative, uh, storytelling, investigative journalism. So all these elements come together to create, sort of this, product, which has to obviously be appealing and interesting to an audience.

**Aayush:** It gives you a lot of actual career skills.

**Paul:** Overall, I was able to take a lot away from the class and enjoyed this new approach to writing.

**Nate:** I really am proud of the work that we did in this class to tell the story that we did on international students and their experiences and struggles with mental health at UVA. I think it's really amazing that this course offers the opportunity to not only collaborate on a group project but a project that matters. Not just to the students in the course or the professor but the institution and UVA and the community as a whole.

**Philine:** This class is easily one of my favorite classes I have ever taken. It is different in so many ways and I really enjoyed it. And as a bio major, I don't really take many classes where I can channel my creative side, and create something that was such a meaningful part of my college experience.