

Self Analysis

Where to begin? The idea for a radio program to bring together the textual and theoretical struggles we have encountered in Kate's Writing through Media class was a great way for our class to learn about an unknown form of radio as well as test our skills at designing and producing a radio program. Personally I realized that while my interview techniques are average my strategy for grinding through the tedious aspects of turning content into a cohesive thesis leaves much to be desired. The biggest hurdle my group and I faced was exhaustively gather as much content as possible and then cutting that enormous raw data into an hour long program. As many of you most likely found out it is a grueling task to squeeze your raw content into an organized idea while at the same time keeping your content focused as well as structured. I feel as though it would have been beneficial to have conducted our interviews with our band mates so that we would not have had to spend as much time listening and editing **after** the interviews had been conducted. Basically the editing portion of the project was something that I, as well as the rest of my group, did expect to require as much time and effort as it did.

I am confident that our website and promotional materials were by far the most impressive part of our project. Our website contained extensive information concerning our artists as well as their bands/co-producers. We were able to find numerous web pages that our interviewees had already formed as well as videos of them performing and making music. I felt like we were able to adequately put a face to the name so to speak. By visiting our web page one would be able to find out just about anything they wanted to know about our artists' backgrounds and musical focus. Furthermore we provided access to future events and contact info in order for those who may be interested in say, collaboration or future business would easily be able to find our artists. In some regards I feel as though our project would have fared better as a kind in depth analysis of Gainesville increasingly diverse music culture and how drastic it has changed in even the last five years. From my interview I learned that quite a few local bands have garnered almost a shockingly high popularity country wide. This topic however was outside looking in concerning our project though because we chose to focus on a specific essay Barthes provided, "The Grain of the Voice." It is not that our topic was uninteresting or irrelevant just that interesting, stimulating discussion concerning Barthes with musicians who have little to no background on the subject can get off topic very quick. I think the project would have flowed better had we instead used an in class discussion on Barthes' essay with interesting perspectives of our artists clipped in. The project would have been much more interesting to listen to while covering more ground in terms of in depth analysis and a wider perspective for which the audience to contemplate.

In regards to editing and structure of our project I feel as though a more concrete script would have been exponentially beneficial in terms of organizing our project to its most potent capabilities. This is no fault but our own for not planning ahead for this immense obstacle of smashing our interviews together in order to form a radio broadcast. Again, in hindsight I would have kept the interviews but instead had them account for only about half the program at most while focusing mostly on creative ways of engaging the audience with our argument. The interviews sheer size made conversation between our program and its listeners close to impossible. The final product was basically Here is Barthes. Here is his theory. Here are people who sing/play music. Find a connection. Way too much grasping there for the audience to see any kind of deeper reading or

analysis. Honestly I am embarrassed because I feel as though we had an intriguing argument, seven unique and relevant perspectives plus each group member and we were unable to make it work. In the end that comes down to not buckling down and getting the job done. There is no excuse for not making our idea work because the technical portion of the project was not so difficult as to completely hinder us from creating even a decent radio broadcast. We did not incorporate music to the degree we would have liked. We did clip our interviews together to accentuate dialogue between interviews. We basically spent all of production cutting interview because we had too much material and did not begin editing when we should have. Instead of devoting three whole days to cutting, clipping and final touches would have been sufficient instead of the twelve to fourteen hours we spent simply cutting and dragging. Again I am feeling above all embarrassed because we had everything we needed to form a good first time radio broadcast and in my opinion we failed.