

INT 137EV - Exploring Our Voices

Unit 1 – Section Activity

Listening to Voices

Part 1:

For this first part of your assignment, you will listen in on a recorded *spoken* voice. Please find something that interests you, but be sure it is audio only (no video if possible). This could be an interviewer, someone on a podcast, an audiobook narrator, etc.

This exercise will work best if you don't really know well the speaker you are listening to, or if they are a bit anonymous to you.

Please listen to your selected example for at least 5 full minutes. Then, take time to answer the following questions (you can type your answers directly onto this document):

1. What is the first thing that jumps out to you when listening to this voice?
2. How would you define the speaker's voice timbre? (not how loud/soft, or how high/low, but how would you define its sonic quality; light, flat, mellow, nasal, etc)
3. Using the table (1.1) of the Kreiman and Sidtis Reading, make a list of judgments you could make about this voice in terms of:
 - the speaker's physical characteristics (age, gender, race, sexual orientation, etc)
 - psychological characteristics (emotional status, mood, personality, etc)
 - social characteristics (social status, education, occupation, etc)
4. Does this voice conjure a certain way the speaker might look?
5. Do you think the speaker has adjusted their voice for this spoken situation, and if so, in what ways are they *performing* their voice?

After you have answered these questions, go back and listen to the same 5 minutes of the spoken voice on the recording again. You don't have to record your impressions, but consider how after contemplating these questions, you might react to this voice differently. We will discuss this in section.

Part 2:

Using whatever device is available and easiest for you, record your own speaking voice. Record yourself telling a story. This might be a recollection of your first day of college, or your very first day of classes: what did you do, how did you feel, and with whom did you interact? Try to extend your story to about 2-3 min.

You will be the only one who will listen to this, and be forewarned that hearing your own voice (as you probably know) is often weird and disorienting; we often don't like how our voices sound.

After you are done, listen to the recording, and then fill out the Voice Mad Lib as a follow-up to this exercise. We will work in pairs in section to read each other what we documented in our individual Mad Lib.

For this first week, please bring in hard copies of (1) the first page of this assignment with answers to the 5 questions, and (2) your voice mad lib.