

INT 137EV - Exploring Our Voices

Unit 4 – Section Activity

(De)Constructing Mediated Voices

The idea behind this unit's activity is to both engage you with different formats of storytelling and expose you to ways of making your own digital stories. You will get to work on this activity in small team collaborations. The first part asks you to collectively engage with a media text of your team's choosing. The second part asks your team to plan, film, and edit a video. You should plan on spending around **one or two hours** working on the second half of the assignment.

Part 1:

As a group, watch something you would define as digital storytelling. This could be as short or as long as your group decides. It might be a short documentary, a YouTube video, a series of short videos, a virtual reality experience, an activist organization's website, an interactive website, etc. You may watch or engage with your selected media text on your own or collectively. When your team meets to film the video, spend 10 minutes discussing each person's reaction or thoughts about the text. What were your main takeaways from this story? Did you learn something new? How did it make you feel? Were there any parts of the story or how it was told that were difficult or challenging? If so, why?

Part 2:

After discussing your reactions, you then will record a conversation between your team members. You can choose how you'd like to approach framing your conversation, but your video should in some way address **storytelling, voice, and listening** in your media text. You may use the questions below as suggestions to help guide your discussion, but we also encourage you to write your own:

- **Storytelling:** In the given media text, what kind of story is being told? What is the story trying to accomplish (inform listeners, mobilize listeners, entertain listeners, affect listeners, invite listeners, teach listeners, etc.)? Is this a familiar type of story? What other stories might it remind you of?

Who is doing the storytelling? Is that different from who speaks or has a voice within the story?

- **Voice:** How many voices are present within this text? Which voices speak the most? The least? Do they speak to each other? How does the text shape the way we can experience those voices? What voices are valued in this story, and how do we know? Is the message of this media text valuable? Why or why not?
- **Listening:** Are there forms of listening present within the text? Who (or what) listens, and how do they approach listening? How are you being positioned as a listener? Who do you listen to the most? How is listening in an audiovisual or digital context different than listening to a disembodied voice? Who else might listen to this story?

You then will edit your recorded conversation to tell a 6-minute story about your group's interaction with the media text. Your team's editor may work on this part of the production process alone, but the final product should be approved by all group members. **Please upload your team's video to your section instructor's Box folder before section.** Ideally, you would also upload your video to YouTube and embed the video on your e-Portfolio.

In preparation for section, you each should reflect briefly on the process of crafting your story: What were you trying to convey to your listener-viewer? What decisions did you have to make to engage the listener? How did the way you prepared and edited your story reflect these choices? Whose voice did you value the most in the process, and why? Whose voice is heard the most within the video? What might have gotten lost or left out in mediating your experience for an outside audience? Make a mental note of some responses or thoughts, and we'll discuss these in section.