

Sonic Remediation Assignment

Overview

This assignment asks you to select a print-based writing – a short essay or article from/related to our course readings – to remediate into a sound essay. [Remediation](#), in general, is moving one mediated piece into another media/medium. Remediation has a long history as a composing technique and is an increasingly common practice to make content in one medium available and accessible in many other media. Many of the podcasts you'll encounter offer examples of remediation – taking print works/articles/stories and crafting audio responses or synopses.

Purpose

The Purpose of this assignment is three-fold:

- To compare two media through a practice of remediation (what can you do with sound that you can't do in print and vice versa)
- To gain a deep understanding of a focused project on sound (e.g. the essay)
- To push the limits and experiment with our composing medium (sound, via Audacity)

Sources

You should choose an essay/article from our course compilation (*Sound Studies Reader*). The essay should be an essay we've not read or discussed in the *Reader*. You can draw your ancillary material (the sounds, music, etc. that you'll incorporate into your remediation) from anywhere you like, but please do document your sources.

Considerations

Remediating from a print essay into solely a sound composition will require many choices. You won't be able to simply record yourself reading an essay. Instead, you should examine the chosen essay for central arguments, themes, topics, metaphors, examples, and any number of items to revise into some combination of sound: voice, music, noise, ambience, etc. This project will require deeply familiarizing yourself with the terms and ideas of the essay.

The point is not to capture exactly what the essay says (in terms of content) but to reenact and (potentially) comment on what the essay *does*. So, for example, if you were to remediate LaBelle's "Auditory Relations," which focuses on the connections between sound and space, your remediation could call attention to sound and space by manipulating volume and "distance" via stereo tracks – having some sounds in the right speaker and others in the left.

Project Components

The formal qualities of this assignment should roughly follow these guidelines:

- Be no longer than 5-6 minutes in length, and no less than 3 minutes
- Include voice, music, and sound effects that alternate in importance (via layering, ducking, and/or stereo tracks)
- Demonstrate clear transitions amongst the composition's components