

Audio Essay: Analyzing Representations of the Family

Based on our discussions of representations of the family and our exploration of family heirlooms, create your own 3-5-minute audio essay using Audacity which captures some aspect of your family or explores the definition of family within our culture. As you create and reflect on your audio essay, you may wish to consider how your portrayal of family confirms or resists public images of the traditional family on TV or other media.

To create your audio essay:

- interview family members
- record candid conversations among family members
- tell your own story or have a family member tell a story
- incorporate sound or music clips
- create a montage of any or all of the above

This project should not simply record and reproduce sounds. Rather, it should use sound to tell a story, create some commentary on, or offer some insight into representations of the family. Most importantly, your audio essay should help listeners reflect on what they are hearing.

Other than these requirements, the assignment is wide open—and purposefully so! I want you to exercise your own creativity in the service of helping us gain a broader understanding of representations of the family.

Reflective Essay:

After completing your audio essay, you will write a two-page reflection discussing your rhetorical choices and what you learned about using sound to explore representations of the family.