



Soundscape Exercise – 30-45 min (first half+ of class)

At top of class, take a few minutes at top of class to explain exercise.

- Keep brief but explain everything.
- Ask students to jot down some of my instructions to remind them while they're doing it.

Briefly define *soundscape* - an acoustic environment; the sounds around you.

Students take 3-5 minutes to leave classroom and find a place in/around Hunter to do exercise.

- Go alone, please do not pair up or form groups with others.
- Can leave your stuff in class, take phone and something for jotting notes.

Think quickly and creatively about where you will go. Can be adventurous or boring, but safe.

- Ex: Hallways on 4th floor, hallways on other floors/buildings at Hunter, stairwells (there are at least 3 very close by).
 - o Maybe not bathrooms because that can get creepy/weird fast (but also interesting/funny lol).
 - o Can go near other classrooms (again, don't be weird, or disruptive); different parts of campus—dining area, lounges, skybridges between buildings, elevators, escalators, library. You can go outside too—spaces in front of Hunter entrances/exits, nearby streets, even some neighboring businesses if it's not awkward...
- But try not to go *too too* far, and only go to places that feel safe for you.
 - o If that means this classroom, that's fine too.

After you've selected a location (you can stand/sit still there and/or walk through/around it), spend 5-10 minutes taking field notes about your immediate soundscape. Jot these down so they can remind you of different aspects of your experience later.

- These notes can reflect on interesting *and* boring aspects of what you hear and don't hear.
 - o Listen actively—try to notice and write down what you hear around you, but also note its relationship to the material (or “real”) world—what you see, sense, and understand around that sound. And perhaps note how you “feel” about the space/sounds.
- While doing this, also make sure to capture a 1-2-minute field recording of your location—video or audio are both fine.

Finish at 1:20pm and arrive back by 1:25pm latest. Be prepared to reflect on your experience.

Back in class: take 5-10 minutes to analyze your field notes and write reflections about everything you can about the soundscape and experience. Try to both detail *what* you heard, but also explore questions associated to those sounds that ask *where, who, when, why?*

- Contextualize the sounds creatively; create *thick descriptions*.
 - o Descriptions of social action (both human and non-human) that describe not just physical (and in this case sonic) behaviors, but their context as interpreted by the actors (that includes you!) as well.

Then, take 10 min to discuss with the class.