

This Salidan Life - Culminating Activities

Part I. Explore

We are HUGE fans of the radio show that is broadcasted on NPR by the title of "This American Life." Each show is set up the same: there is a single theme around which the presenters tell stories. These stories are often not what you would expect to hear with the theme that is given. The show is great because it reminds us that everyone has a story to tell...even if it is not what you expect. As we have discussed this entire year, each strong piece of literature has a universal theme that runs through it, a theme that readers from all walks of life can relate to. Our goal when you leave this class in May is that you will continue to search for "themes" that connect us to the stories we read, the films we like, the people we meet, and ultimately, the world in which we live.

To begin, tonight's assignment is a listening and writing assignment. You need to go to the "This American Life" website, select a show, and listen to it. You can search a given theme using this link: <http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/tag> ; here are a couple of shows that we recommend:

- Act V
- Music Lessons
- Two Steps Back
- Lock Up
- Fiasco
- Notes on Camp
- Break-up
- My Experimental Phase

This is the link to the creators' favorites: http://www.thisamericanlife.org/Radio_Favorites.aspx

How to listen:

- 1) Use one of the links above
- 2) Click on the show to select it

Option 1: to listen to the whole show, click on the orange "launch player" in the square with the name of the show;

Option 2: to listen to individual acts, click on the title of the act.

Read a little bit about a show before you choose. Please note that some of the shows do contain controversial topics....so you are not surprised, make sure to read about them before you listen.

Assignment: After you've listened to one show (each show is one hour), you will need to write the following:

- * Describe your show, the theme, & the acts in it. (25 points)
- * Evaluate it - what worked, what didn't, what you learned (25 points)

Enjoy! Remember, you aren't downloading these (that costs money) but listening to them online.

Part II.

Your own "This American Life" (400 points)

You will be responsible for coming up with your own theme AND the 3 stories that you would like to correspond with that theme. You will be recording your stories (either by video tape or by audio recorder)...Your entire show must be anywhere from 8-10 minutes. NO LONGER! Presentations of your shows will be due on Monday, May 18th. Presentations will begin on that day and will continue the rest of the week. I know that many of you might not have access to an audio recorder or a digital camera. My hope is that you can at least find one to borrow (even from the school library) for this project. If you cannot find a recorder (phone) or a digital camera to complete your project, your only other option is to type it up.

Before you ask what the **requirements** are for this project, here is the answer: I expect you to put thought and time into it. I expect you to think outside the box and go beyond your comfort zone to be willing to interview people you would not normally interview (I would prefer that you not use more than one parent...or even one at all)...I expect you to stretch and grow in the process of creating this project. I expect for you show me that you have made a connection to the theme you have chosen. You know that I expect for you to go above and beyond what you may even expect of yourselves... I expect that when you are done, you will notice your theme everywhere you go...

Specifics:

Due date: Monday May 18

Points: 450

100 each act→ three acts connected to a unifying theme;

50→ introduction;

100→playing /performing for class

Format: Audio or video recording

Length: 8-10 minutes. No more than 10 minutes.

Steps:

Step 1. Choose your theme.

Step 2. Brainstorm and plan what types of stories might help to demonstrate or represent your theme to your audience.

Step 3. Determine who to interview

Step 4. Write interview questions

Step 5. Record interviews

Step 6. Write an introduction or prologue and record it

Step 7. Cut prologue and interviews together in an organized, purposeful way (remember the photo-essay - there should be a reason that you organize the way that you do)

Step 8. Finalize your recording and save it on a disc, thumbdrive, or in gdrive so that we have access to it to grade it.

Step 9. Perform/Play it in class.

Part III. You must complete both tasks.

1. (100 points) Write 2 letters to adults who work or volunteer at this school who have positively influenced your existence here. Thank them for making a difference in your life...be specific. Turn in 2 copies of each letter. (1 page)
2. (50 points) Find a song that represents your high school career. Choose one song that you will always equate to your time here at school. Print out the lyrics (including singer and title of the piece) and explain the song (stanza by stanza) and describe its significance to your life. All lyrics must be appropriate in terms of language as well as subject matter. This could be incorporated into Part I. (1 page plus lyrics)