

For my narrative, I decided to use the memory of when I moved into a new house and started high school, all within the span of three months. I chose this memory because it fit the prompt very well, because I was coming into not one, but two brand new spaces. I felt like there was a lot that someone could learn from my story. It was also a memory that I was recent, so I felt like I'd be able to recall it a lot easier. When adapting my narrative into a new medium, I decided to turn it into a podcast. I chose this because I've had previous experience in an English class recording a podcast, and I personally feel very comfortable using recording and audio editing software since I've been using these types of software to produce music in my free time. I knew that I would be able to do some cool things with the podcast, such as effects, backing tracks, etc. I also think that the medium fit my audience well. My target audience was teenagers, specifically those coming into and starting high school or college, since I felt like they could learn the most from my past experiences. Many of my friends listen to podcasts, especially while they are doing chores or walking outside, so I thought it would be a good idea to make a podcast that someone could just turn on and listen to but still take something away from it.

However, just creating a podcast where I read line by line my narrative would be insanely boring, and way too long. So, when creating the podcast, I had to try and essentially summarize my narrative, going into detail and getting the point across without going into too much detail, if that makes sense. I didn't want to write a script that read exactly what I should say, because I wanted the podcast to sound natural and relaxed. So instead, for my first recording, I just winged it: I had my narrative pulled up in front of me, I had an idea of what I wanted to say in my head, and I just recorded. I tried to be as quick and concise as possible, but when I listened back, it was way worse than I expected. The podcast was nearly ten minutes long! A lot of it was due to long pauses where I was trying to think of what to say. Even after going through and cutting out all the silences, it was still six minutes long, which I thought was too long. I knew that for the next recording, I would need to make it much shorter, since my target audience (teenagers) have a short attention span and would probably lose interest if it was longer than three or four minutes. So for the next recording, I decided to write down key points, and order them in a specific way. This was because I thought the first draft was kind of all over the place, and the topics didn't flow well together. I thought that if I made the podcast easier to follow, people would understand the point that I was trying to get across much easier.

I also decided that since I was making a podcast, it would be a good idea to add some music in the intro and ending of the podcast. I did this in my first draft, and it sounded okay. I just threw together some loops and automated the volume to go down once I started to get into the main part of the podcast. But I left this out of my second draft. I wanted to see what it sounded like without it and decide if I wanted to include music in the final podcast. I

listened and thought it sounded really boring without music. It's not really something you would notice if you hadn't heard it with music before, but if you listened to the podcast first with music then without it, you would probably feel really bored too. I knew that if my target audience was teenagers that I needed something to get their attention at the start, and what do teenagers like better than listening to music? So, for my final draft, I decided to keep the music in, just to have something to catch your attention and to close out with. I also needed to decide on what kind of music to play. I like house music, and I think it is something that is very popular, so I decided to add a chill, relaxed kind of house loop. I think in the final draft it sounds nice, and I used some effects such as a filter as well as the volume automation to make it sound interesting. Listening back to the podcast, I knew I made the right choice. It was just something there to catch your attention, and to get you excited for what's to come, and I thought it just sounded cool.

I learned that my second draft overall sounded kind of boring. I received feedback that I sounded very monotonous, and was hard to hear at points, so I knew that for my final draft I would need to vary my tone a bit. This would work better for my audience, because I know that as teenagers, we hate listening to people talk who are just monotone and boring and just reading off something. For example, if I'm sitting in a lecture and the instructor is just reading off of the slides monotonously, not really saying anything else or giving other examples, just reading the slides, I get very bored. But if the instructor is trying to mix things up, speaking with enthusiasm and giving examples, not just reading off the slide, I pay more attention and retain the information better. This was something I tried to focus on in my final draft. It would help to keep the listener's attention and would help my message to be heard. If I were to do this project again, I don't think there's much I would change. I felt very happy with the topic I chose, as well as the medium that I chose. If anything, I would maybe try to get an interview in my podcast to shake things up, probably with my sister since we're twins and were experiencing the same changes (i.e., new house, high school, etc) at the same time. Other than that, I am very happy with how my project turned out.