Reporting Assignment #1

**Assignment:** Do a series of short audio interviews with friends, students or area residents as appropriate for your blog topic.

When you’re done, ask if you can also take their picture.

**Now Due:** March 7

Use a digital audio recorder which could be a phone and a camera to produce a blog post with audio that lets at least **three** people tell us what they think. Again, write it as a post, think of a snappy headline, check your spelling, and so on. Let’s start with these suggestions:

* Introduce yourself as a student at La Salle who is blogging about your topic area
* Tell them that you are blogging and the audio will be posted; you’re not just doing a class project.
* Talk with them a bit before you ask whether they will let you record answers to some questions about your topic. Establish a rapport first.
* Find a setting without too much natural sound; you should also record some of that after the interview
* Turn on the recorder and hold it near them (about 6 inches) but look them in the eye
* Start with basic questions about where they live in the area, maybe their age and name; let them know first name is OK
* Central questions might include: position on a controversial topic; any trends they see; are things getting better or worse; favorite aspects of some technology or organization, as well as dislikes
* At the end ask if there’s anything they’d like to add, thank them etc.

Get some audio for lab next week Feb. 28. The final product should be 1 ½ to 2 minutes long. It should have an obvious intro, interviews and conclusion, ideally with narration interspersed. You can borrow recorders from the Comm Center, Media Service (Olney 210) or use your phone. Try the Voice Record app. See Briggs pp. 182–183.

**Goals:**

1. To learn how to tell a story with sound by mixing narration, interviews and natural sound. Experiment with music as an option.
2. To develop your ability to interview people on the street.
3. To help you understand issues that relate to your blog topic
4. To sharpen your technical skills in using a digital tape recorder.
5. To teach you to use Audacity audio editing software.