

This multimodal assignment followed a sequence of alphabetic essays. Each assignment was scaffolded with class discussion of the assigned texts, discussion board and in-class writing, essay planning sessions, and software workshops.

Audio Collage Assignment:

We have spent the week listening rhetorically and historically to the contents of the GLBT Historical Society's gay radio show archive. We engaged the archive by considering its *form* (how the shows splice together music, interviews, history, and commentary) as well as its *content* (what the shows reveal to us about gender, sexuality, politics, and activism in 1970-80s San Francisco).

Your task now is to consider this archive as *material*, composing a 4-6 minute "audio collage" in which you make use of the radio archive. Your composition's topic is open, but it must: 1) Engage with and/or examine gender in a focused way; 2) Incorporate clips from the online archive and, optionally and sparingly, your own voice; 3) Be thoughtful, carefully designed, and *respectful*; and 4) Be exploratory, as you interact with the clips to piece together your composition.

To begin your thinking about your audio collage, you must first listen--far and wide in the archive--until patterns begin to emerge. Pay attention to what interests, surprises, or discomforts you and make notes of those moments so you can listen for more thematic echoes and return to prior reverberations. The goal is to carve out a focus, collect relevant clips, and then thoughtfully cut, arrange, and layer them into your audio collage.

The purpose of this assignment is two-fold: 1) to use existing media that has an important place in the history of gender and sexuality to think through gender and sexuality and 2) to study and practice audio composition and the rhetoric of remix.

Sources: The GLBT Historical Society's "Gayback Machine"
<http://www.glbthistory.org/archives/audio-search/>