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Composing Digital Media

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Soundscape Narrative Reflection

My finalized soundscape narrative consists of fourteen tracks, three being self-recorded, and the other eleven are from freesound.org. Along with the screenshot of my final audacity project, I have uploaded four screenshots to highlight some of the effects I used. The four I chose to highlight were, fade in/fade out, change speed, repeat, and change pitch. I used the fade in and out to help make the soundscape flow together with no abrupt, loud changes. I used the change speed effect to slow the footsteps recording because I wanted to portray a leisurely walk rather than a speed walk. I then used the repeat effect on this same sound. The sound I downloaded was only a few seconds, and I wanted to show a longer, slower walk to the beach. The last effect I used was the change pitch, which I only used on the one sound of the coffee being stirred. I did this to kind of slow down and give a more relaxed, deeper tone. All of these effects helped me portray the theme/ambiance that I was aiming for. I tried to incorporate the use of effects but used them sparingly considering I was going for a very natural and relaxing tone. The soundscape I created is based on the experience of being down the shore with your family on vacation. The narrative portrays waking up, making coffee, and heading straight down to the beach for a relaxing morning. You can hear the chatter of the family inside making breakfast, and the calming noises of flipping the pages of a book while in the company of the calming morning waves. I wanted to illustrate the bliss that I always remembered on vacation at the jersey shore. As I was imagining the experience I wanted to create, I was influenced by other morning routine soundscapes, but also, I was influenced by meditation tracks I had listened to before. Often in guided meditation, it starts off with directions and dialogue, and then will slow down to allow your mind to drift off without you even noticing, This is what I wanted to create with my soundscape: a very relaxing few minutes that ended with a period of time that someone’s mind could drift off and forget about any stress or tension. I left the sound of the waves going for about a minute and a half with little interruption to end with the listener drifting off in relaxation. That’s what you get too do at the shore; there’s no stress, just calming noises of the simplest things in the morning. I wanted to bring this feeling often experienced at the shore to people who might an escape for a few minutes. I hope the track is relaxing and somewhat nostalgic for the listeners. It might even put you to sleep!