To begin my soundscape narrative project, I was inspired by one of the example narratives titled Imagine This: A Story Told With Sound Effects. Through analyzing this narrative, I was drawn towards a narrative that felt as though the listener is experiencing a specific event or routine right alongside the creator. In the original narrative, the story follows someone receiving a serious phone call and the events that followed. In my narrative, I invite the listener to join me as I get ready for classes in the morning; following me as I wake up, get ready, get changed, and head out to catch the bus. Even without the assistance of visuals, my goal was for the listener to be able to picture exactly what I was doing and be able to construct a clear narrative in their minds.

Listening to Imagine This: A Story Told With Sound Effects, I got some inspiration for how I wanted to edit together my narrative and things I wanted to avoid to create a more cohesive story. I enjoyed the creator’s lack of dialogue while still painting a clear picture, so I chose to exclude any dialogue in my narrative. I recorded a large majority of my audio clips in my apartment to create a more true and accurate narrative. Because of this choice, I had to edit the clips to reduce the plethora of background noise that was affecting the clarity of the audio. To do this, I used the Noise Reduction tool in Audacity, as seen in Final Screenshots 2 and 3. For each clip, I tried various sensitivities and decibel levels to create the most clear audio I could. I listened back to the narrative in its entirety after each adjustment to see if I could still hear any changes in audio clarity from track to track.

While I took a lot of inspiration from Imagine This, I found the editing of the clips together to be quite jarring and lacking in flow. Because of this, I edited my clips in such a way that I feel there are no abrupt jumps from track to track. To do this, I found where in the audio I wanted to use was in each track then clipped each one slightly longer than I needed. This was done so I could use the Fade In/Out tool without eliminating any audio I found necessary to the structure of the narrative, as shown in Final Screenshot 1. For each track, I began by trying out adding a Fade In, Fade Out, then Fade In and Fade Out effect to each to see which sounded the best. After I determined this, I spaced out my tracks in such a way that there were minimal pauses from one track to the other, while taking into account the fact that not all the tracks used this effect. I played around with the gaps between tracks to ensure I had a cohesive narrative without any abrupt stops or awkward pausing.

Finally, to ensure further cohesiveness, I added a backing track of some stereotypical pop beats, shown in Final Screenshot 4, to emanate the kind of music I listen to while getting ready in the morning. I found that this track was too short to cover all of my narrative, so I cut out the ending fade, copied the resulting track, cut the beginning fade, and pushed the two tracks together to create a longer backing track without any awkward pausing or gaps. I found that this was also too short, so I cut a small clip from the original track, added a Fade Out effect, and attached this track to the very end.