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Professor Miller

Composing Digital Media

October 17, 2017

Audio Unit Reflection

I was not the biggest fan of this project— mostly because hearing a recording of my own voice makes me physically ill. In addition that, I do feel I’m more of a visual learner, so the thought of working with audio equipment sounded a bit overwhelming. But it turned out to be even easier to navigate than Gimp, in my opinion, and now I have some knowledge of a fun new tool!

Basically, I started with a recording of my voice reading an excerpt from a past academic essay. Since it was my own writing and voice, and this is my project, I’m assuming I don’t have to properly cite anything for this (right?). I chose a few lines from an essay I wrote sophomore year about food waste at Pitt. Ironically, I never got a chance to finish the piece because Sodexo shut me down faster than a maggot in Market Central. So I’ll consider this a small victory that someone gets to hear it.

I knew I hades to add at least two more sound effects to meet the baseline criteria, and I wanted them to go along with the theme of a cafeteria. After carefully reviewing a few sounds off a website called Sound Bible, I selected the serial sound because it complimented my voice nicely enough. The tricky part was that the sound only lasted for one second. Luckily, I realized that you can actually repeat sounds in Audacity to create a looping effect. This kept it going long enough to match most of my words, and according to the website, it’s public domain.

As for the final sound effect, I chose a truck braking because it emphasized the issue of food waste. Yes, my words are hokey and dramatic, but it’s still an interesting topic of conversation at Pitt. Overall, I’m happy to at least gain some experience working with an audio program. But more than that, I can start to see why GitHub is a useful tool to use for academic or professional purposes. It’s a great way to keep the workings of a project neatly organized so everyone involved can easily access it.

I know I didn’t strive very hard toward the aspirational criteria, and I plan to do that on future projects. I had a very busy last few weeks and didn’t have as much time as I would’ve liked to get creative with this. However, I know that I can edit things up until the portfolio, so I will surely keep that in mind. After all, it was really cool hearing what the other students cooked up. And I recently discovered an amazing new podcast called “My Dad Wrote a Porno”, so rest assured my appreciation for audio as a medium has skyrocketed.