

Soundscape journal – Due W Feb 13 / F Feb 8

Complete these activities by the third week of class. You will turn in your journal, along with Reflective Writing #1.

Repeat these activities as many times as you like in different places and at different times of day, but do each at least once. The prompt for Reflective Writing #1 will be distributed in class on W Feb 6 / F Feb 1.

Soundscape/Listening Activity #1: Take a sound walk.

We begin with a simple exercise that can be done anywhere, by anyone. **WRITE DOWN ALL THE SOUNDS YOU HEAR.** Where are you? What time of day is it?

Repeat this activity in different places and at different times of day.

Soundscape/Listening Activity #2: Distance of sound.

Find a real life situation with many moving sounds (a street corner is a good example). Go there and stand quietly for 7 minutes with your eyes closed, listening to all the sound movements. Notice what sounds are happening close to you, and which are happening far away from you. The soundscape expands or shrinks according to the amount of activity in it. This is generally true for vision, also. Tall buildings limit our view, while in the country we can see and hear over greater distances. Listen for the most distant sound you can hear. What is it? Can you imagine its distance from you?

Soundscape/Listening Activity #3: Distinguishing sounds.

Find another (or the same) real life situation with many moving sounds. Direct your attention to one category of sounds only (car horns, feet on the sidewalk, barking dogs, typing), and become acquainted with the entire soundscape. You will hear many of the category of sounds you've chosen, and no two sound produces sound exactly the same. How many different types do you hear on your street corner? Describe their different sounds.

Soundscape/Listening Activity #4: Ambient sounds.

Enter various shops or buildings (at least 3 over the course of the week).

Which one has the quietest ambiance?

How many shops have music playing? What kind of music?

What other kinds of sounds can be heard that are special to certain establishments?

Soundscape/Listening Activity #5: A sound diary.

Pay attention to the sounds you hear over the course of the day.

- What was the first sound you heard upon waking?
- What was the last sound you heard before sleeping?
- What was the loudest sound you heard today?
- What was the most beautiful sound you heard today?

Soundscape/Listening Activity #6: Sound scavenger hunt.

Take a walk and find as many of these different kinds of sounds as you can:

- The loudest sound you heard
- The softest sound you can hear
- A soft sound destroyed by a loud sound
- The highest-pitched sound you heard
- A sound that moved past you
- A sound that moved with you
- A sound you heard from above
- A sound that changed direction as it moved
- A sound made in response to another
- The ugliest sound you heard
- A sound you heard twice—and only twice
- A sound made by something opening
- The most remarkable or memorable sound you heard
- A sound with a distinctive rhythm
- The most beautiful sound you heard
- A sound that came from far away
- A sound that either slowly rose or fell in pitch
- A sound you would want to eliminate from this soundscape
- A sound you missed that you would have liked to have heard

Soundscape/Listening Activity #7: Preservation.

What sounds do you hear that are disappearing from the soundscape? Imagine you were recording it for preservation in a museum collection. What information would you want to accompany the recording?

Soundscape/Listening Activity #8: Historical soundscapes.

Find a work of literature or a visual document (novel, story, painting, photograph) and write down all the sounds it contains.

Soundscape/Listening Activity #9: The soundscape of now.

Make a list of all the new sounds that have entered the soundscape within the past year or two.