Comm 240 “Voicer” Assignment/Spring 2009
Due Date:  CD/You Tube posting and Script are due Wednesday, March 25

Assignment:  To produce a “voicer” story for a College of Charleston news segment called “Campus Close-Up” that highlights interesting people and places on campus.

The Story:  You are to prepare a “voicer” report about the college’s Rivers Communications Museum which we will visit during class on Friday, March 20.  
***We will meet at the museum which is located at the corner of St. Philip and George streets. So bring your recorder to class.***
At the museum, we will be given a brief overview by curator Rick Zender. Then you will have the chance to record some of the unique sounds of this unique museum: sounds of old phonographs, telegraphs, radio programs, and other communication/media-related equipment on display. This is a museum that many students do not know about

Background: Our textbook defines a “voicer” story as a radio news story introduced by a newscaster then narrated by a reporter live or on tape. Voicers are also known as “ROSRe (reporter on the scene reports).” Think of the format as a “wrap” report but without any soundbites in the report—just the reporter’s voice. The twist with this report is that it will have sound elements from the museum (instead of soundbites).

While a voicer does not contain actualities (soundbites), it can include “nat” or natural sounds. These are sounds that are part of the story you are covering that you record and then use in your report. Such “nat sound” helps bring the story alive and engage the listener.

The TRT (which includes your anchor lead and tag) should be between 60 and 90 seconds. Remember a voicer does not contain soundbites, just the reporter’s voice. But your report must include at least two direct quotes or indirect (paraphrased) quotes from someone involved in the story (museum curator Rick Zender). But rather than using soundbites, quote the source directly or paraphrase what is said. When using direct quotes, remember to write on your script…“and these are his exact words…” or “and this is a direct quote…” or “and we’re quoting…” You must say this so it’s clear to the listener that you are using an exact quote.

Your report must also include at least three “nat sound” clips recorded at the museum. Remember to write an anchor lead and to sign off her report with: “For Campus Close-Up, I’m (your name).”

A sample voicer script will be posted on our website (Juke Joint script). See page 60 of your book for another example. But remember with the script style on page 60 you also need to include a page with the text of your voicer report. The book example just has the anchor introduction and the incue and outcue of the voicer. Put what you say during your voicer on separate pages per the Juke Joint example.

Important script note: Be sure to script your “nat sound” parts. Example:
Nat Sound Full: :03 telegraph sound

Grading: This is a letter grade assignment. Grades will be based on accuracy, writing and reporting quality, production, scripting, and following guideline requirements.

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