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## CUNY Academic Works

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### Self-Listening & Envisioning Audience Exercise & Assignment

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English 110, Phase 1  
Self-Listening & Envisioning Audience  
Exercise & Assignment

You're going to record yourself (using a phone voice recording app is an accessible method) telling a story about a meaningful experience, artifact, or person from your moments first acquiring language and/or literacy. Feel free to touch on experiences you outlined in the CCNY English 110 Language and Literacy Brainstorm Worksheet.

Aim for a 5-7 minute recording that, ultimately, you will shape and condense. If you feel this is a longer story, aim for a snapshot or a section of that story. If you'd like to tell the full story in your recording, then decide which smaller section to ultimately submit, please do type your entire recording at step 2. That is part of the exercise.

After this process, you'll write a one page reflection on how this process was for you—what was difficult or helpful; whether you could imagine a version of this process that could be helpful for your personal or academic writing—and submit that to our class discussion board.<sup>1</sup> Please read everyone's posts, and comment on at least two classmates' reflections.

Exercise:

1. Before recording, imagine you're reading to an audience. It may be helpful to pick that audience, then pick your story. Begin your recording by describing this audience, and the setting of where you imagine telling this story to that audience. Then record your story. Do your best to keep talking, or pause but do not stop the recording, until at least 5 minutes.

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<sup>1</sup> If consistent with your class goals, instructors may invite students to read these aloud, and/or peer edit.

2. Once recorded, listen to your story. Type up your recording, word for word. This is your original text. Keep a copy of that original text in case you'd like to return to it.
3. Now that you have a written copy of your spoken story, please edit what you've typed to best communicate that story to your imagined audience. If you'd like to record again, you may. In your reflection, describe why you did so. And if you feel like you actually spoke to a different audience than you originally intended, in your reflection please indicate what made you change your audience.
4. Please print and bring to class 2 copies of your edited (and, if you like, original) version of your story.
5. Prompts for your reflection:
  - a. How was this process helpful for telling and or writing a story? How was it difficult?
  - b. Ultimately, what parts of your edited story did you speak and what parts did you write? Were there any parts you felt you had to edit, or you had to leave exactly as you had spoken?
  - c. Did your memory, or the story, surprise you at all?



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