

2019

Sports Broadcasting: A Workshop

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Recommended Citation

O'Marra, Jack, "Sports Broadcasting: A Workshop" (2019). *Senior Honors Projects*. Paper 716.
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Audio Recordings – Sports Broadcasting Workshop

The audio files submitted are before and after recordings of a play-by-play sequence completed by a student who took the broadcaster's workshop. As a requirement, a few times a semester the students had hands on opportunities to call sporting events by watching clips on the internet and calling play-by-play as if it were a live event. At the conclusion of the recording, the student and myself would sit down and discuss the assets of the recording, and what can be improved upon, based on the lessons throughout the academic year. Following the discussion, the student would go back and call the same sequence while keeping in mind the points brought up in the review.

Some of the adjustments the student made in these recordings were: a much cleaner entry in terms of setting the stage and introducing the situation, more description on the actual plays themselves, and the information and facts to include with the players. It is important to cleanly and clearly set the stage of the situation, and while the first recording had a good setup, it lacked a tidy and smooth delivery. The second clip takes that exact point and puts it to action. It is also very important to be as detailed a possible when calling plays, especially when there is no visual component to the broadcast (i.e Radio). The student had great success with the description in the first but added more detail and was a bit more polished in the second. Lastly, what makes a broadcast go from B quality to A quality is the small talking points and nuggets to include about players, coaches, or teams. It is a bit more difficult in this setting because it is not actually live, and there is not a lot of preparation beforehand, but the student makes a great adjustment in adding quality information to supplement the call as a whole.

These files represent the hands-on growth, a goal that was enacted at the start of the workshop. Not only is it important to lay the foundation of theories and techniques when it comes to sports broadcasting, but the best way to improve is to practice. The students taking the workshop had opportunities to broadcast for WRIU's sports department, a club that allows URI students to broadcast URI athletics on the college's flagship radio station. They also had these recording sessions to practice with feedback. Each student had different levels of broadcasting ability at the start of the sessions, but they each came out well improved thanks to these recording sessions and live on-air practice time.