

Assignment Description

Service Learning Option for SpCm 212: Fundamentals of Public Speaking

Goal: To focus on vocal skill development while providing a key community service by creating recordings for the blind.

Commitment: 6-8 hours of recording time AND 6-8 hours of listening time at the digital recording studio of the Iowa Department for the Blind at 524 4th Street t 1060 NW 70th Place in Des Moines. This would be done in 4-5 separate trips to Des Moines with students traveling in pairs providing their own transportation.

Outcomes:

- The grade for this project will count for the Special Occasion Speech Grade; in addition to credit for the speech assignment you will be granted two days of attendance credit that can be used to replace up to two days you were absent from class (making you eligible for the lab attendance bonus even if you had to miss a day or two).
- You'll provide an important service for blind, physically handicapped, and print disabled individuals who rely on taped transcriptions for educational and vocational needs as well as for various leisure time pursuits.
- You'll have an interesting and relevant professional item to add to your résumé
- Volunteer work for the Iowa Department for the Blind can continue after the class.

Process:

- Contact Dr. Amy Slagell by the end of the 5th week of class to express your interest in this service learning option. [best contact: aslagell@iastate.edu or speechlady@iastate.edu]
- Arrange an appointment with Dr. Slagell for an "audition."
- If your audition results in approval for the project, you will work directly with the Digital Recording Specialist for the Iowa Dept for the Blind to arrange your recording schedule.
- Students will transcribe print materials into audio format including general fiction, textbooks, magazines, newspapers and non-fiction works.

Basic Qualifications:

- A clear, pleasant, fluent, and expressive reading voice.
- Willingness to work under a deadline if working on textbooks, educational and professional materials and magazines. Most fiction and non-fiction assignments don't require a firm deadline, but projects must be completed by the end of term.
- Ability to accept assignments and constructive advice from IDB library staff.
- Possess a good vocabulary, be willing to spend time pre-reading, researching pronunciations and definitions, writing out descriptions, and correcting errors.
- Responsible and dependable.
- Desire to be of service.
- Enough schedule flexibility to make 4-5 appointments during regular business hours.

Assessment:

- Grade will be based on the ability of the student to fulfill the commitment and demonstrate the basic qualifications listed above. Satisfactory completion will translate to an A for the speech assignment.