

Listening for Elements in an Audio Story

- **Narration:** Is the writing in the narration clear, vivid and accessible to listeners? Did you follow the story throughout or lose attention at some point?
- **Production:** How was the sound quality? Were interviewees miked closely and free of distortion and hiss? How was the editing? Were there edits that cut off words, breaths or other out-of-place sounds?
- **Pacing:** Did the structure work for the piece? Was the pace too slow or too fast, or sections that went on too long?
- **Transitions:** Did the piece move you from one section to the next? Was there a clear beginning, middle and end?
- **Facts and information:** Was the piece based on solid research. Was the information credible? Were there unanswered questions?
- **Scenes:** Does the piece create scenes through sound or in the writing?
- **Use of sound:** If appropriate, did the piece use ambient sound to bring the listener into the story? Was the sound intrinsic to the story or just added in gratuitously?
- **Use of music:** If music was used, was it appropriate? Did it help create a mood or help with pacing? Or, was it overused?
- **For one-on-interviews:** Did the interviewer ask questions that brought out insightful answers from the interviewee? Did the interviewer refrain from talking too much or use too many verbal asides while the interviewee was speaking?