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Journal #3

In this week's internship session at the WNYK radio station I was given the opportunity to do an interview with an indie artist. Brad Hickey asked me if I would rather interview the artist since it was in my time slot or if I would still like to do my show. He offered for me to still do both and do my show as well as the interview but I wanted to take advantage of the opportunity of watching a radio interview be conducted. I wanted to be able to focus on that and take notes so I would be able to conduct my own interviews on my own as well as ask potential questions I might have had about how exactly to conduct an interview and the preparation for it. Brad Hickey sent me questions to ask the artist but offered me advice when conducting interviews. He said that when he first started on radio and doing interviews he would plan out the questions so much that when the interview rolled around he was very robotic like. He said that I should leave time and room for natural conversation so it does not feel so scripted and robotic. He said it was good to come prepared but allow the conversation to take it's natural course and dive into what the person you are interviewing may say or reveal that can lead to new questions on the spot. I found that to be very good advice and put it in my notes for when I conduct my own interview.

In observing the interview itself I noticed some procedures that were important. Brad Hickey said that phone interviews and in-person interviews tend to be different from each other. Phone interviews can typically run longer but the length of the interview really depends on the person being interviewed and the amount of questions you prepare. First Brad answered the phone for the artist before going on air and explained to him what we would do and what is to be expected. I wrote that in my notes. To make sure the person being interviewed is not confused, is

caught up on what is happening and has room to ask questions before the interview itself starts. Once the interview had started I asked him two questions.

Mr. Hickey started the interview with a quick bio about the artist. I did not realize how important this was until after the interview was over and he discussed it with me. He said that the hardest part about giving interviews like this is giving bios for artists because he does not like to read but that it is super important to do it anyway in order to introduce who the guest is to the audience. Why would an audience listen to an interview of a person they know nothing about? I had not thought about that at all so I made a note to make sure I give a quick bio for the musician I plan to have on the show.

We then transitioned into questions and for the first question, because the interview was over the phone, the guest could not hear me. I made a note to make sure we are good technically before the interview or show starts in order to avoid awkward pauses. We took music breaks in between questions and Brad Hickey said that music breaks also depend on the interview you are doing. Today we interviewed an artist and we played their music during the one break we took in between the interview. During this break Brad was polite and asked how our guest was doing and if he had any questions. He seemed to be comfortable although he was a bit nervous. After the break we asked him about the songs that were played and the inspiration behind it. I made note that in this type of interview with a musician playing their music is a good way to transition into different questions.

When it came to preparing questions I noticed from the conversation between the guest and Brad Hickey that there was a planning conversation before the interview itself. Brad had asked the guest if there was a theme that he wanted to focus on for the interview and if there were any types of questions he did not want to be asked just in case he might have been

uncomfortable. The guest said that he wanted to keep away from any type of political questions. I made note of this as this was extremely important. I wrote a list of all the questions that were asked in order to get an idea or template of questions I can potentially ask my guest. I noticed that the questions definitely would vary depending on the type of artist there is.

I think this week at the radio station was a hands on educational one as I got to assist in conducting an interview. I am excited to take what I learned here and apply it and grow it when I interview my own guest.