

Lynette Niebla

My time as an intern at WNYK Warrior Radio has completely exceeded my expectations. I have learned so much about radio broadcasting techniques and the work it takes to be successful on air. So many of my weaknesses turned into strengths, and although I did face some issues at times, I learned how to persevere. With that, working around so many great people at Alliance University made adapting to radio challenges and the process of improving my self-esteem so much easier.

Going back to all my past journal entries, it is evident that I have grown as a person, and my techniques have improved drastically. One of the major things I learned is how to trust myself. I think going into this internship, my fear was not being interesting enough for people to be listening to on a weekly basis. I began to depend on others to make my show enjoyable, thinking that although I did most of the talking during interviews, having others there made my show exciting. Don't get me wrong, I loved when I had the opportunity to invite my teammates to my show, but I also had to force myself out of my comfort zone and know that I could very much do as good a job alone as with others on the air. I believe I started having that courage at about week five of my internship and journal entry. From a technical standpoint, I learned how to organize my radio show and be less script-like, with a more natural tone. Because I found writing out a script was more beneficial for me, I started doing that every week. One of the downsides of this was I started "reading" my script instead of using it as a reference and having a natural conversation with my audience. It also made me sound so monotone, which is not appealing for the radio at all. Going back to learning how to trust myself, I had to learn how to believe in my ability to speak on a topic without relying on a script to help me out. This definitely helped my speaking and communication skills, and it is a lesson I will refer back to in the future.

As mentioned above, in the first few weeks of my internship, I felt unconfident and would honestly go into shows slightly anxious. I would be nervous about whether I would do a good job or if my chosen topic was interesting enough. Of course, I was excited every week, but there was always a slight feeling of anxiety that I constantly tried to avoid. I would not consider being anxious or nervous bad, as it meant I cared about doing a good job. But as the semester went on and I began getting familiar with my task, weekly audience, and schedule, that feeling faded. The feeling went away not because I stopped caring about my performance but because I was confident in my performance. I knew that no matter what, I would do a good job. As an intern, no one expected me to be a professional on the radio, so I knew all I had to do was try my best. Although I did experience this struggle, I always considered my ability to be sociable or a “people person” as one of my strengths, and it has become apparent as an effective tool to do well. Based on my shows that consisted of interviews, this skill helped me allow my visitors to feel comfortable on air. I remember Brad telling me, “Everyone you have invited on your show has done so well and spoken so well, but that is because you make them feel comfortable enough to do so.” I felt good that my skills shone through my interviewees and on the air. Once I learned how to make my shows more conversation-like with my listeners, my social skills started to stand out even in solo shows.

Even though I learned so much about myself and my social skills in this experience, some issues occurred that I never expected would happen to me. One week, I started my whole introduction without raising the volume on my microphone, so my listeners could either hear nothing or distantly hear my voice. Right away, I turned off my microphone and asked Brad what I should do, and he recommended I just start over and tell my audience we were “Experiencing technical difficulties.” I was so embarrassed and did not expect to make this type of mistake on

the show as it is basic knowledge to check the soundboard before starting. I suppose I got so used to just clicking the on-air button and talking that I did not ensure my mic volume was even raised. It was a learning experience for me and a mistake that has not and will not happen again.

Thankfully, I have had many people give me feedback on my performance. I would receive positive feedback from people back home every week, telling me they were proud and enjoyed my show. My parents and coach were frequent listeners, and although they would point out what I did well, they would tell me what I could do better. One thing I remember from my first week that both my parents and softball coach pointed out is learning to say less “um” and “like” throughout my show. Sometimes I don’t notice myself saying these filler words, so I appreciated that they pointed it out. I also appreciated how Brad was always there listening to what I was speaking about and would give me pointers on how to approach asking guests questions and taught me how to better transition from one topic to the next. This advice helped me tremendously, as they were things I had to improve to succeed in the rest of my shows. Brad’s teaching style was so encouraging while working as an intern. He really tried his best to build up my confidence and would constantly say, “You’re killing it!” whenever he felt I did well. This teaching style matched perfectly with my learning and supervisory needs, as it is exactly what I needed to build and maintain my confidence throughout the semester. We have not disagreed on anything yet because we have both been very open to one another's ideas, which has kept the atmosphere safe and calm. I also appreciate when Brad gives me tasks to perform, like listening and reviewing artists’ music and providing recommendations for songs during a special event (ex., International Womens Day and Spring/summer playlists). These tasks make me feel important or as if I am contributing to the success of the radio station, which makes me feel great! I believe these tasks have been about right, neither over-challenging nor

under-challenging. They are the perfect tasks that have taught me the different aspects of what makes radio so fun and interactive. Overall, the work and support system has been more than adequate, as I have felt that Brad Hickey and Dr. Greaves are always open to answering any questions I may have and have also pushed me past my comfort zone.

The other interns on Warrior Radio have completely exceeded my expectations. I have only met three of the four other interns, but the three that I know are so talented! There have been weeks when our work times overlap by a couple of minutes, and I have the opportunity to be in the studio when one of them is on the air. These moments have been vital for me as listening to them speak and the topics they speak on has helped me learn so much about them and what I could improve on in my show. I have no concerns with my relationship with the other interns as we have always been friendly to one another.

WNYK Warrior Radio, the studio, and the people who are part of the team have also exceeded my expectations. The pace and atmosphere approximate what I thought it would be and have pushed me to be better week in and week out. I think one of the unwritten rules or values that have stood out to me is respect and consideration for other interns and their time on the air. As mentioned above, there have been times when our work hours overlap by a few minutes. Because of this, if someone is on air when I walk into the studio, I must respect their time and work, requiring me to be quiet, make sure the door is closed, and patiently wait for them to finish their segment. This matters tremendously as it teaches you to be mindful of those you work with. Also, other interns have walked into the studio when I am on air and given me respect, so I must do the same for them.

Being part of the WNYK Warrior Radio and creating my show Lynette Out Loud (LOL) has been one of the best college experiences thus far. It has opened my eyes to a new branch of

communication and media I was unfamiliar with before coming to Alliance University. I have learned so much about myself, my skills, and the radio as an intern. Although I faced issues and struggled, I learned how to fight through them. Along with the opportunity to work with great people, I was brought into an atmosphere that pushed me beyond my limits and helped me regain my confidence again, which I will always be grateful for.