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Being a radio show host is an exciting and challenging profession that requires a unique set of skills and characteristics. It is a highly competitive field that demands a combination of technical expertise, creativity, communication skills, and the ability to connect with listeners. In this essay, we will explore the qualities required to excel as a radio show host, the challenges of the profession, and the rewards of working in this exciting field, but most importantly, the things I have learned along the way of my journey.

One of the key qualities required to be an effective radio show host is excellent communication skills. This includes the ability to articulate ideas clearly, to listen actively to guests and listeners, and to express opinions and perspectives in an engaging and compelling manner. A good radio show host should be comfortable working in a team and have a friendly and engaging personality that connects with listeners. I have always exhibited excellent communication skills, and a compelling personality which I believe has become apparent as an effective tool in the internship. Another essential quality for a radio show host is creativity. A radio show host must be able to come up with new and fresh ideas for show segments, interviews, and content that will keep listeners engaged and coming back for more. They must have the ability to take risks, try new things, and be open to feedback and criticism from listeners and colleagues. Creativity, and the ability to use my skills effectively have been the top things I have needed to learn the most from the beginning, but in learning these new skills, I learned about my own ability to adapt, and the strengths that I can bring from taking after others in this

manner. The school only makes this a calmer, and elevated learning experience because of its committed, and hardworking atmosphere.

For the first, roughly 3 to 4 weeks I tended to feel extremely nervous, because I was still not totally comfortable with my own voice, and being someone that people hear for such an extended period of time. However, as time grew, I could more quickly shake off that feeling of, “WHAT AM I DOING HERE!?!?!?” before going on the air. Challenges that I faced a time or two were only times when things would occur that I did not expect. For example, I had a guest on one of my shows where I would be talking about March Madness. This was a big deal for me, since my guest was a basketball player who would be joining the pro league next year. Unfortunately the day before my show, she told me she was not going to my show, and I would just have to figure something out myself. This naturally scared me, and made it a very negative and difficult moment for me. That being said, not all unexpected experiences were negative. A positive, yet unexpected experience was my first and second shows, where on my first show, I unexpectedly talked for almost an hour, and became comfortable on the air in just 10 short minutes. On my second show, I shocked myself at how calm and collected I was feeling. Having both positive and negative unexpected moments helped immensely to shape a lot of future knowledge growth, as well as my comfort, and skills as a whole.

The challenges of being a radio show host include working a lot for just mere preparation, dealing with the pressure of being live on air, and competing for listeners in a highly competitive market. However, the rewards of working in this field can be significant. Radio show hosts have the opportunity to connect with listeners on a personal level, to inspire, educate, and entertain audiences, and to make a positive impact on their communities. Although the challenges are very apparent to a radio station, I never felt afraid of the challenges, or like they

were overbearing. At times the challenges were right on par with my ability to handle the situation; however I would say that for the most part, I was somewhat under-challenged. In line with this, I would say that the pace of the radio show as a whole was not what I expected. I have always thrived in high pressure, high intensity, and quick paced environments, and aside from the times that I was actually on air, I did not feel a huge sense of the, “if-you-make-a-mistake-it’s-over” wave. Being an athlete, I have absolutely felt that sense, and being on the radio show was never something that seemed like it would destroy me in that way. I will say that regarding the WNYK studio, I could confidently say that it was always a welcoming, and helpful space. The studio always seemed like a place that should be relaxing, because Brad did an excellent job of making us feel like that on the show. It almost felt like because the people working with the station valued the interns, the physical studio needed to reflect that value. Having been there for so long, I do believe that the support system has always been adequate, and comfortable. It was never overwhelming, or nonexistent, which is something that I can sincerely say that I am grateful for. If it was not for the support system, I believe the show as a whole would not have been a thriving and exceptional learning environment. I could even go as far to say that the support system is what made me fall in love with my radio show in the first place.

Technical expertise is also crucial in the field of radio broadcasting. A good radio show host must have a solid understanding of the technical aspects of radio production, including sound mixing, editing, and microphone technique. They must also have experience working with radio equipment and software and be able to troubleshoot technical issues that may arise during live broadcasts. Brad, my supervisor was phenomenal in showing me many technical skills over the course of the semester, as it was the one area of my internship that I felt I went in without any

prior knowledge. Brad's supervising style was always one of work hard, play hard. He was always a very cool, calm, and collected individual, but when it came to business, he was always prepared to get the job done. As a chill instructor, I felt that Brad was a fairly good match to me as an individual. I mentioned previously that I, at times, felt underchallenged; however, I don't feel that had anything to do with Brad, and rather more with my initiative to try new things where I could have been challenged more. I don't think that if I was placed in a higher pace environment, that it would alter my perception of Brad and our ability to match each other's working energy. Brad and I never disagreed, I think this is mainly in part to the fact that I was completely new to the field, and was merely just taking the time to learn, but also because of our compatibility as working professionals. We have similar personalities, so he was really never someone I could disagree with. Being a radio show, Brad was the main person I interacted with, so there were very few times when I got to know my other coworkers. In that, I did not have high expectations for them, because I knew they were in the same position I was in with it being our first times as radio show hosts. In the environment we were in, it was not extremely important to me that they were super impressive because our audiences were typically not the same, and I never really needed to interact with them; however, in a more important setting, where I am an important show, I would prefer not to be the only important show, and be amongst other great ones as well. Being that I don't interact with the other interns, I cannot say that our relationship concerns me much. We do see each other on occasion; however, our two works do not completely intertwine, so it is hard to have a concern over a nonexistent relationship.

Receiving feedback has never been a problem for me, as I am a very open-minded individual. I received a lot of feedback from listeners, my parents, my friends and other family members, as well as from my supervisors. I have always tried to treat each piece of criticism

with integrity, and respect, but also with a grain of salt. I try to remember that what I am partaking in is not what they are partaking in, and because of that, I do not allow myself to feel defeated, or irritated by the comments, and rather just learn as much as I can from them. The motivation for this comes from wanting to better my listener's experience, and in order to do that, I first have to listen to what they provide me with.

In conclusion, being a radio show host requires a unique set of skills and qualities that combine creativity, communication skills, technical expertise, and a friendly and engaging personality. Although the profession can be challenging, the rewards of connecting with listeners and making a positive impact on their lives make it a highly rewarding career path for those who are passionate about broadcasting and connecting with others through the power of radio. I have loved every minute of this experience, and am so grateful to have left my mark on it.