

Audio Recording Assignment

The Assignment

Approximately twice a month you will be required to record at least one conversation between yourself and one or more native speakers of Japanese. You may record several short conversations or one long conversation, but the recording(s) should equal a total of 30 minutes for each recording that you turn into me. You will be provided with a digital recorder for recording. Poor quality recordings will not be accepted. Please redo it.

Responsibility for Equipment

You will be required to return the borrowed equipment in the same condition as you received it.

Recording Procedures

When recording, avoid background noise such as the TV, radio, traffic, or other loud background noise. The participants in your recordings must include at least one native speaker of Japanese. The recordings can be short or long. It is okay if the interaction is longer than 30 minutes. Please record as much of the interaction as possible (i.e. from beginning to end). If you choose to record shorter interactions, they should total 30 minutes. The recordings may include those in which you are interacting with other students at school in clubs meeting, at the cafeteria, or walking to class.

Before you record the interaction, you should turn on the digital recorder and record the following:

1. Your name
2. The date
3. The activity
4. The number of participants

After you record, you will need to write the following information about the recordings. You should save the recording with your name and the date (i.e. Zimmerman8-12-2012). The information about the recording should be sent in an email should include the following:

1. The number of participants
2. Their approximate ages
3. Male or Female
4. Their relationship to you (friend, someone met on the street, hairdresser, etc.)
5. The date
6. The type of activity that occurred.

If more than one activity occurred, then please write this down too. One other important thing for you to do is to write the names in the order of their appearance in the recording so that I can identify them. You may need to listen to the beginning of the recording to do this.

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Recording Schedule:

September: One recording, one journal entry (Due September 30)
October: Two recordings, two journal entries (Due October 15 and 30)
November: Two recordings, two journal entries (Due November 15 and 30)
December: One recording, one journal entry (Due December 15)

Permission to Record

Before doing the recording, it is necessary to inform the other participants that they will be recorded. This means that you should ask the other participant(s) if it is okay to record them speaking to you. However, please ask them again once the digital recorder is running, so that I have their consent recorded for my records.

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Journal Assignment

You will keep a journal about your experiences in Japan during the project. In the future, you can reread it and remember some of the events and people who you met during your stay here in Japan. The journal can also be a place to express your feelings about your experiences both positive and negative.

You should at the very least write an entry every time you turn in an audio recording to me. I want you to reflect not only on your life in Japan but specifically about that recording. The length of your entries will depend on how much you choose to write. Sometimes it may be a paragraph and other times it may be four or five pages. However, aim for approximately 300 to 600 words per entry.

You will email your journals to me on the arranged date for turning in your recordings. Please save a copy of your journals in your computer for yourself. This also in case if the researcher does not receive your entry for some reason, you can resend it. You may also want to print out a copy to keep for your own records.

Occasionally, the researcher might assign a topic for you to reflect on. You will know in advance what the topics are and when they should be turned in.

Things to Do

1. Complete the project questionnaire before April 30.
2. Keep a journal of your experiences during the project and will e-mail this journal to the researcher. (Please see the handout for more information).
3. Record yourself while speaking with native speakers of Japanese 4 or 5 times during your semester abroad according to the guidelines attached to this handout
4. Send me your weekly reports for IPO. This will be a means for me to see how things are going with you.
5. Return the equipment to the researcher at the end of the study.
6. Complete an interview with the researchers.
7. Complete a focus group interview with the researchers.

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