

## Project #1: “Atlanta is…” Podcast



Image credit: Atlanta postcard, date unknown. Found at [Curbed Atlanta](#).

For your first major project, you will work in groups of four to five students. Groups will be determined by the instructors; you will have the opportunity to choose your groups for later projects.

Each person in your group will interview one person. Only two of those interviewees can be Georgia Tech students. In your interviews you will pose the question: How do you describe or characterize Atlanta? Another way of getting a verbal portrait of the city from your interviewee is to ask your interviewee to come up with a slogan or phrase that might encapsulate their perspective/perception of the city’s identity. If you go that route, then encourage your interviewee to elaborate on why s/he has chosen that phrase or characterization. These interviews do not need to last more than a few minutes, but keep in mind that these interviews are your fodder for your podcast, so if your interviewee is not responsive or seems shy, consider picking someone else.

### Your Podcast:

Your final submission for this project is the first episode of a podcast about Atlanta; in this first episode, your group will describe how you landed on the series title you’ve chosen. In the podcast, your group will:

- **Synthesize** the interviews you did and share your insights with your audience (hint: your annotations will be useful here!): What *main themes* or aspects of Atlanta did your interviewees highlight?
- **Critique** the interviews and share your insights with your audience: What is *missing* from the descriptions and characterizations offered in the interviews you all did? What generalizations did interviewees make? What hidden perspectives or histories are absent from the characterizations your interviewees offered? To answer these questions your group will incorporate excerpts from at least three oral history interviews; you can use [the Living](#)

Atlanta archive, the Unspoken Past archive or the Georgia Women’s Movement Oral History Project. (You don’t need to use all three of those archives, but you can!)

- Finally, **craft** your podcast’s title. Your podcast’s title is an *argument* about Atlanta’s identity. (You don’t have to use the formulation “Atlanta is . . .,” and you **may not** use a motto the city has used in the past like “Atlanta Forward” or “The City too Busy to Hate.”)

### Production Guidelines:

- Shoot for a length of around five minutes. If you hit six, that’s fine, if you’re at 4:30, that’s fine, but aim for the 5-minute ballpark.
- Record in a quiet room.
- Include intro and exit music of your group’s choosing.

When using oral history interviews, keep in mind that you don’t need to listen to every second of each clip in order to discern its main contributions and topics. Use the information provided to you on the site; in the metadata offered there, you are given a “description”—usually just a couple of sentences that are a brief guide to whether the given interview covers topics you are seeking information on. You can also use the *Living Atlanta* assigned reading, and if you find a compelling voice/quotes, search for that interview; Arthur Raper is an interesting example of a figure who discusses themes of race, justice, and interracial organizing and who is quoted in the book and is searchable in the online archive.

**Value:** This project is worth 10% of your overall grade.

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### Breakdown of Project Components/Deadlines

**DEADLINE ONE:** September 12, 10pm: Interviews completed and annotation completed; each group member annotates the interview s/he conducted.

**Annotation Instructions:** Each member of the group conducts an interview. Each person will create an annotation of her/his interview, to be submitted on September 12. The annotation includes:

- Location, date, and time of interview
- Race/ethnicity/nationality, gender, and year in school of interviewee (name of interviewee is optional)
- Comments that stood out to/surprised you, and why
- Reflection on what the interviewees responses reveals to you about perceptions of Atlanta in the contemporary moment
- Reflection on your own interviewing practices
- Use the transcription/annotation exercise to help you with this: ie, Did you ask effective follow up questions? Did you accidentally “lead” the interviewee? Did you strive to make your interviewee comfortable? Etc.

**Submission Instructions:** You will submit your interviews to **your own dropbox**. Your group leader will assemble and submit your annotations to the t-square folder. Each group will only submit one annotations document.

**DEADLINE TWO:** September 19, 10pm: Draft podcast script due. This draft script should demonstrate that the group has met to discuss the interviews, has chosen its three oral history interviews to excerpt and include (and should note which they are) and should be the appropriate length that translates to five-ish minutes (a script for a five-minute podcast will run about three double spaced pages).

**Submission instructions:** The group leader will submit the draft script to the appropriate T-square assignment folder.

**FINAL DEADLINE:** September 25rd, 10pm: Podcast is due. Your podcast should include each group member's voice, and brief excerpts of three *Living Atlanta* interviews. Please look in the resources file for excellent instructions for using Audacity the sound editing software. (If, however, your group decides to use a different software, that is absolutely fine.) Before submitting your final podcast, review the checklist below.

**Submission instructions:** The group leader will submit the sound file (or a link, if appropriate) to t-square. Include in the submission box the full names of each group member. Before you submit, ask yourselves:

1. Does the podcast offer a title that makes an argument about the city's identity?
2. Does the podcast include three actual clips (not members of the group reading from the *Living Atlanta* text!) from oral history interviews?
3. Does the podcast include each group member speaking at some point?
4. Is the podcast between five(ish) minutes long?
5. Is the podcast neatly edited and executed? (Particularly: has giggling, stumbled words, long awkward pauses, and extraneous or distracting sound been edited *out*?)
6. Is the podcast in a format (.wma or .mp3 for example) that your instructor can open? Did you test to make sure?
7. Did you double check where/how to submit the podcast?