

Independent Project – Final Proposal form 2025/6

Student Name: Lily Plumb
Proposal Title: An Investigation into the Power of Storytelling through Audiobooks, imagination, and AI.
Proposal Subtitle: An investigation into the power of storytelling, imagination, and empathy through audiobooks and how AI has impacted audio narration. As well as my own data collection through my recorded audiobooks (one AI and the other human voice actors.)
Key themes you are going to explore: • The way storytelling affects people of all ages. Why it affects people. Why it is crucial for early development. • Stories and imagination • Data and an exploration into why teenagers/adults don't read anymore • Introduction about audiobooks in society and how they have created a platform for busy adults to imagine and listen to stories being told by humans. As well as giving human narrators/voice actors a new job format. • New approach on type casting and accents in audiobooks. • AI's new approach to voice recorded needs in society. Why it's been a positive help for companies and recording studios. Creating opportunity for small businesses. • How AI has caused negative impacts in a storytelling prospective because of AI's tendency to speak incorrectly or mispronounce words taking listeners out of the narrative (world building) Is AI the future for the narration world? • Importance of storytelling being told through AI loses its meaning. • Conduct my own data research by making my own audiobooks one by recording real humans and another from AI and collect data from strangers, friends, family, social media, and students.
Explain how your investigation is pertinent to your area of study? My investigation is in storytelling and audiobooks. The world of theatre is all about storytelling and making the audience feel something. It's about empathy, imagination, and human connection. Both of those things are crucial to storytelling. Reading and listening to stories can't ever be lost because it's a direct reflection into life. It shows humans just how important it is to be empathetic for others in this world. Without using our imaginations society would grow shallow and culture will collapse. I am also writing about this topic because I'm super interested in working in the audiobook/voice acting world. I absolutely love reading and want to share both storytelling and acting into a format that allows me not to become famous, but to just enjoy all my favorite things in life as my career.

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Proposal aims and objectives:

My focus will be on how powerful storytelling is and the use of imagination in childhood and adulthood. I want this to provide clarity on the lack of reading/use of imagination after childhood. How introducing audiobooks has helped busy adults enjoy listening to stories once again. Allowing for human connect through storytelling. As well as connecting to other cultures and histories because of thousands of different cultures telling the stories. Lastly how AI has impacted storytelling.

Proposed Collaborations:

I'm interested in working with Gabbi. I'd love for them to be a part of my audiobook recording as a voice actor. I believe it will be a good way for someone interested in voice acting to gain experience and knowledge in the field. This also allows for us both to explore AI together since it's a very new topic.

I'm also interested in working with Joseph to explore type casting and how actors are presented. Audiobooks give actors and narrators a new way to act without the stereotype of type casting. Opening the possibilities for actors to experience playing new roles.

What will be your practical investigation/output?

I will be writing a qualitative research paper and for my creative output recording two audiobooks one AI and other with voice actors to collect my own qualitative data.