FRONTIER
OF
CHANGE
FIELD
PRODUCER GUIDE
FRONTIER OF CHANGE
RECORDING / INTERVIEWING TIPS

1. Basics
- Look out for background noise (humming refrigerators, music, air conditioners, ticking clocks)
- Look out for “fidgeting noise” from people you’re interviewing (rustling clothes, tapping the table, clicking pens, etc)
- Watch the levels on your recorder—don’t want sounds to “peak”

2. Interview techniques:
- Prepare yourself: think about what you want to talk about, write down notes
- Ask person you’re interviewing to introduce themselves
- Be respectful
- Ask simple, open-ended, questions
- Don’t be afraid of pauses
- Be yourself
- A very powerful question is “Is there anything else you’d like to add?”

3. Scene-recording techniques
- Set the scene: say where you are, what you’re doing
- Microphone can’t see—get people to describe what they’re doing, what they’re seeing, where they are
- Record people doing things—have people tour you around their house, show you photos, prepare food, make something.
- Record good sounds: dogs, cars, songs, machines, nature sounds, etc
- Keep the recorder going!

4. Finding stories and subjects
- Follow your curiosity: what’s interesting to you is probably interesting to other people
- Keep in mind what stories or people you might be taking for granted

Back-Pocket Questions:
What happened next?
What were you thinking when that happened?
Can you give me an example?
How did that make you feel?
FRONTIER OF CHANGE FIELD PRODUCER CHECKLIST

1. **Introduce yourself.**
Find a quiet place and spend a few minutes introducing yourself. Who are you? Where are you from? Where are you recording? Describe where you live to someone who can’t see it and hasn’t been there. What’s special about where you live?

AND

2. **Interview someone.**
Pick someone in your community to interview. This could be a family member, an Elder, a friend, a colleague—anyone who you think has a good story or an important perspective, or even someone who you’re just curious about. Find a quiet place and sit down with them to talk about their life.

AND/OR

3. **Record an activity.**
Choose an activity or event that you’re interested in and record people doing it. Cooking, playing sports, hunting, dancing, anything. Get sounds of this activity happening. Describe what you’re seeing and what people are doing. Ask people to tell you what they’re doing. Remember, people can’t see what you’re recording!

AND

4. **Take a walk.**
Walk with your recorder and describe what you’re seeing and feeling. Record yourself walking over to either the interview or the activity you’ve chosen to document.

AND

5. **Sounds!**
Record sounds from your town. Anything and everything you can think of. At least three, but record as many as you want.

AND

6. **Reflect.**
When you’re done with all your recording, take a few minutes to record your thoughts about it. What was it like to record an interview or activity? Did anything surprise you? Did you like it? Don’t worry about rehearsing, just say whatever you’re thinking.

AND

7. **Take some pictures.**
Use your phone or whatever you have handy. Take pictures of the people you spoke to or the things you recorded. If you have a smartphone, take at least one Google Sphere photo.
Is a project addressing climate change in Alaska. We're producing audio pieces that will virtually transport listeners to other parts of the state, as well as to other times and other realities.

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