

Integrated Design Curriculum  
Parsons The New School for Design

IDC Lab: Media

Project 2: *Signal/Noise*

*sig-nal* noun \ 'sig-nəl \

Definition of SIGNAL

1: sign, indication

2 a : an act, event, or watchword that has been agreed on as the occasion of concerted action b : something that incites to action

3: something (as a sound, gesture, or object) that conveys notice or warning

4 a : an object used to transmit or convey information beyond the range of human voice b : the sound or image conveyed in telegraphy, telephony, radio, radar, or television c : a detectable physical quantity or impulse (as a voltage, current, or magnetic field strength) by which messages or information can be transmitted

*noise* noun \ 'nɔɪz \

Definition of NOISE

1: loud, confused, or senseless shouting or outcry

2 a : sound; especially : one that lacks agreeable musical quality or is noticeably unpleasant b : any sound that is undesired or interferes with one's hearing of something

In this project you will use your ears much more than your eyes or any other sense. You will discover, and unleash, the potential of communicating through this medium.

How you communicate through sound is up to you, but what you communicate must integrate the theme of signal and noise, and how they correlate to your working definition of “media”.

Your final 3-minute (approximately) sound piece should describe sound's potential and use it to its maximum. What can we describe through sound, and no other medium? What kind of attention do we have from a listener, and what are the various ways we can take advantage of that attention? How can we explore contrast through sound? What are the relationships between media and sound?

Your concept will be developed from your understanding of the examples screened in class and readings. Essential to this project is to really LISTEN, constantly, for the duration of the project.

NOTE: You can use moving or static images in your piece ONLY if they are the original source of the sound, and if you feel they are core to your concept.