

The Radio and the World: The Influence of the Radio on the United States of America

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What would have happened if the United States never joined into World War II? Or if they did not have the public's support behind taking part in the war? For a long time many Americans were extremely against joining into the war because they did not want a repeat of World War I. Even though the people were against it, the government believed that the United States should interfere with the war, leading them to set about on the difficult task of uniting the nation into going into the war. The task was made easier by the advances made in the communication industry during this time. The increase in the popularity of the radio in the 1930s made the United States involvement in World War II inevitable because of the new ways that journalists and sports announcers could interact with people through the radio, the advertizing characteristics of the radio, broadcasts that influenced the public's opinions and behavior, and because of the way the United States used the radio for propaganda.

The radio had been around for a long time before it became popular to the public. Guglielmo Marconi, an Italian scientist, first invented the radio in 1899. The first radios could only send dots and dashes, not the words or music that later technology allowed for the radio to transmit. Early radio users sent messages to each other with morse code that was invented by Samuel Morse in the 1840s ("Radio"). The first radios were used for ship-to-ship communications, and not by the public. The radios allowed for better and faster communication between naval ships, which profited the United States Navy during battles, or just in general. The use of the radio by the public began to grow exponentially during the 1920s, although many feared that it would erupt into chaos ("Regulating Radio"). People expected chaos to ensue with the growing popularity of the radio because there were very few regulations on radio broadcasting, and people were already competing for stations. The wide use of the radio quickly

led to Herbert Hoover, Secretary of Commerce before becoming the 31st President of the United States, to call radio conferences to deal with the new technology.

The radio originally fell under the regulation of the Department of Commerce, but that needed to be changed because the United States had never dealt with technology quite like the radio before. Herbert Hoover called four radio conferences in the 1920s so that he would still be in control over the radio and its growth ("Regulating Radio"). The radio conferences gathered a large group of congressmen and senators together to discuss what was to be done in terms of creating guidelines for radio users to follow and determining where the radio would fall under the control of the government. In October of 1924, the third radio conference, regulations were put on stations and many stations were assigned frequencies that they could broadcast on (United States of America. Department of Commerce). However, after the last conference, in 1926, the Federal Radio Act was passed and the Federal Radio Commission (F.R.C.) was created. The Federal Radio Act was passed by Congress to prevent monopolies on the radio from occurring, however it was not very effective, because the big radio stations and businesses continued to benefit off of the smaller ones. The Act did create the equal time rule that ensured politicians of opposing sides equal on-air time. The equal time policy was some-what effective in ensuring that no one politician could publicize their campaign more than the other candidates. This was especially important when the politicians began to realize that the radio was a very good way of campaigning. The F.R.C did not want only one politician to be able to publicize their campaign in this manner, so the policy prevented campaigning to be wildly unfair. The F.R.C. could not regulate the content that was broadcasted because they could not deny people's rights by censoring the material, but they could regulate who was allowed to broadcast based on "public

interest, convenience, and necessity” (“Regulating Radio”). New regulations around the radio were already beginning to change the way that it was used, and more regulations were going to be added over time.

As the radio became more and more popular, a new sub-culture of hobbyists began to form around the radio. These hobbyists referred to themselves as hams and they were often white, middle class, urban men and boys (“Radio”). The hams encouraged a strong sense of community and working together in the decade before World War I (Haring 20). The hams created a culture that was a “close knit clique” and had conditions for membership and codes of conduct for members (Haring 19). They wrote books illustrating their regulations for the members and how people should act on air. The books includes the *ABC’s of ham Radio* and many others that explained behavior protocol. For example:

one author noted that “a sense of courtesy is important” and told hams not to transmit on frequencies already in use. with surprising regularity, handbooks also endorsed general personal “qualities of the try amature” such as “inquisitiveness, persistence, improvisation, imagination and an open mind”(Haring 19).

The hams had many strict etiquette beliefs and believed that everyone’s actions, both good and bad, reflected upon the whole group (Haring 20). The young boys who were part of the ham group learned how to operate their radios from boy scout manuals, magazines, books, each other and trial and error (“Radio”). The boys were important in expanding the radio because they were the ones who made it popular in the first place, and would continue to increase the growth of it later. The ham clique were the first large group of people to widely use the radio. They were also the ones who advanced the radio technology by holding competitions to see who could send a signal the farthest and the fastest (Haring 20). The ham advances paved the way for inventors to improve the technology and create radios that no longer needed morse code. They were vitally

important in increasing widespread use of the radio with the public. Before the hams became popular there were few people who had the radio in their homes, and not many used it for interest or entertainment. The ham society brought radio culture into the lives of Americans and impacted the social uses of the radio.

With this new advance in the technology, brought the first commercial radio stations available to the public. In 1919 Frank Conrad began playing music over a radio station regularly for people to listen to . Conrad's program, named KDKA, was one of the first official regular broadcasts, and certainly not the last. Although ready-made radios were not being industrially built yet, many people hired hams to build radio receivers for them ("Radio"). Over time more and more people brought radios that played music into their homes, making the ham's morse code culture obsolete. There were many disagreements about if the radio should be kept strictly morse code or audible. The two sides often were competing for frequencies and each wanted the other off the radio and thought their way was the best and only way to use the radio (Haring 25). Eventually the people who preferred the audible radio overpowered morse code and it became obsolete quickly as the radio spread into more and more peoples homes. The hams were no longer the only ones who used the radio, and the practicality of morse code diminished.

With the invention of the radio, came a new way for journalists to transmit information to people. This new method of providing people with information at a faster rate, helped society to understand what was happening in the world, specifically about the war in Europe, to a larger degree. Before the U.S. was officially in WWII, Americans still heard about the war easily and quickly with the help of the radio. The radio allowed for people who were in the war zones, or near by them, to describe what was happening back home to Americans. This was also a new

way for women and children to hear about war. Previously, only men participated in war so women and children who were back home were not part of the battles. The women still heard about the war through newspapers, and their husbands or other men around them, but hearing the news broadcasted allowed for people who were not fighting in the war to experience it in a whole new way. Every night throughout the 1940s everyone in American families gathered around the radio at seven o'clock to listen to the news reports (Eskenazi 81, 82). Edward R. Murrow was a famous reporter in Europe at this time who was said to be able to paint a picture of a scene through words (Attig). These war reports were a major contributing factor to why people thought the United States should take part in the war. The reports gave people a new look to what was going on in Europe. The radio brought the war closer and made people realize just how awful it really was over there and what they could do about it. Before the radio and these new forms of communication, people did not really understand the extent that the war was having on civilians, towns, or just Europe in general. The radio was able to paint a picture in the mind of the listener and convince them that they needed to help. Without the radio, the United States would not have had the public's support behind participating in WWII.

During the pre-WWII era, the radio was also beginning to be introduced to sporting events. The radio was already a form of journalism, and sporting events only added to that. The announcers generally would not be at the game, but instead be listening to people at the game give them updates on what was happening. The announcers would then go on-air and give the listeners these updates. They would hit sticks together, or use pre-recorded crowd noise to make the game sound more realistic (Eskenazi 124). These techniques tricked children into believing that they were hearing the actual game. The announcer's ability to create real sounding fake

noises, shows how the radio can be a tool of mass deception. If used in a certain way, the radio has a unique element that can be used to trick the listener into believing what they are hearing. Sporting events are just one example of the many things that the radio deceived people of.

When commercial broadcasting stations began appearing in the 1920s, a new way of communication was evolving. In 1922, AT&T announced that they were creating a new station that was dedicated solely for advertising and would be called WBAY. WBAY would be stationed in New York City and people or companies could pay \$50 for fifteen minutes of on air advertising that would be broadcasted across the country. WBAY began broadcasting on July 25, 1922, but it turned out to be a complete failure (Craig 19). No companies thought that the radio would be a good way of advertising their products, so no one made commercials or gave money to the station. People were unsure of the new way of communicating because it was still a relatively new concept for people to understand. However, they did not realize how important the radio would become in advertising until the following year. In 1923 AT&T came out with the idea of sponsored radio shows. With sponsored shows, there was no direct advertising on the station, but rather companies paying to have their name mentioned a few times during the show (Craig 20). In the 1941 radio broadcast, *News Commentary New Year War News*, the listener hears the broadcaster, Robert Arden, mention a dentist office several times (Arden). Arden says that the dentist office is sponsoring the broadcast about the war in Europe and that people should have their dentures made with Doctor Cowen, the friendly dentist located in southern California. Doctor Cowen and his company are one of many examples that show companies were actually paying money to have their commercial aired. These commercials were not very different than the ones that air on the radio and television today. The advertisements were not played for a few

minutes straight, like today, but rather the announcer would state who sponsored the broadcast several times throughout the show. These commercials would become more and more important as stations grew and grew to cover the whole country.

Although there were no direct stations that solely broadcasted advertisements anymore, many people were still unhappy with the new way of publicising products. Even though many listeners were upset, the radio companies needed to make money somehow, and this was a convenient way of creating a profit and still having a station that people regularly listened to. Over time, the stations began to be linked together so that someone broadcasting in, for example New York City, might be able to reach the home of someone living across the country in California (Craig 19). The radio allowed for the commercials to reach the homes of millions of people because everyone who listened to the radio was also had to listen to the commercials that played on the station. The new way of spreading commercial information could also quickly and easily be transformed into spreading political propaganda.

Even though the radio was very effective at convincing Americans that the United States should join the war, the radio was also a method the Germans used to justify their means. Before the United States was involved with WWII, many people all over the world were hearing German propaganda, which included the radio. German music stations would say:

Germany is the most peace-loving country on earth. In the last three centuries England has waged 144 campaigns, France 89, but Germany only 39, of which 14 were against Austria and 16 against Bavaria, to establish the unity of the Reich... We do not want the war, it was forced upon us, and we do not want to go to war against Poland either.
(Lavine 271)

These interludes into the German broadcasts showed that the radio was also being used for Nazi propaganda. The Germans were saying that they were only trying to defend themselves when

they fought and that the other countries were the ones at fault for these conflicts. The propaganda that they used was specifically designed to make the Germans appear as though they have not done anything wrong. Will Irwin, a muckraker and author of *Propaganda and the News*, said that Adolf Hitler, Huey Long, and Father Coughlin “were broadcasting effective fairytales to millions of wishful thinkers” (Craig 178). Irwin is saying that these people are blatantly lying over the radio and millions of people are blindly listening and believing them. Irwin is also careful in choosing who he says is at fault because he is not accusing one country or person, but rather saying that everyone during that time is at fault for lying to their citizens over the radio. Lying over the radio to an enormous group of listeners is an atrocious thing to do because people are trusting one to give tell them what is happening, and by creating stories, it is unfair to their audiences. In England during this time there were several Nazi propaganda broadcasts that were attempting to convince English men to join the Nazis. In one of these broadcasts announcer was talking about how the British money suddenly became available during wartime and not when the country needed the money at other points (*Nazi Shortwave Propaganda Radio Broadcast*). The Germans were trying to convince the English radio listeners that joining the Nazis would give them what they truly wanted and their tax money would be used ‘correctly’ to help during wartime. The radio was an effective system for propaganda, but only if people believed it. Some people realized what was happening and ignored the political radio broadcasts, but overall most people still blindly listened to the political aspects of these broadcasts and had their opinions unknowingly swayed. All over the world countries were using the radio to convince their own citizens, and those of other countries, that what they were doing was the correct thing to do and their opponents were wrong.

One night, in 1938, there was a radio broadcast that changed the way that Americans viewed radio broadcasting. This program, *War of the Worlds*, was about an alien invasion. *War of the Worlds* was written by H. G. Wells and aired October 30, 1938 from 8 to 9 pm on Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) all over the United States. The show was meant as a halloween trick by CBS and started off sounding as though it was just a normal program playing music from an event. However that quickly changed once there was a “sighting” of a meteor hitting the earth in New Jersey and the broadcast was interrupted. The broadcast continued to feature many bits from astronomers as martians began to emerge from the meteor. The martians then proceeded to kill thousands of people and the listeners believed that it was actually happening in New Jersey. The aliens went around to other well known cities, like New York City, and killed everyone there as well. The show became all more believable when someone was talking over air about the aliens coming toward them and then suddenly cut out, right as the martians were getting close (“War of the Worlds”). The name of the show and the fact that it was fiction was only stated at the beginning of the show and then not again until forty five minutes into it, which added to the effectiveness of the show making people believe that this was actually happening (“War of the Worlds”). If someone were to tune into the station in the middle, and missed the first introduction, he or she would most likely believe that it was happening because there would be nothing telling them otherwise. Also, during this time period there were not very many radio shows that were dedicated for this type of entertainment. Most were either news programs or stations that played music, not fictional stories told over air. This meant that people did not know what to expect when they heard it, or for some, the thought that it was fictional never crossed their minds. *War of the Worlds* aired when there was the threat of the United States

being invaded by the Germans, so people were already on edge and the broadcast used that fear to make this seem possible. Although Wells meant the show to be a trick, it caused mass chaos all of the America, mostly in the Northeast where it took place, but people panicked everywhere.

The worst of the panic was centralized in New York City, where the martian attack was supposedly happening. The New York times article from the following day, October 31, revealed what really happened. The article said:

New bulletins and scene broadcasts followed, reporting, with the technique in which the radio had reported actual events, the landing of a “meteor” near Princeton, N.J., “killing” 1,500 persons, the discover that the “meteor” was a “metal cylinder” containing strange creatures from Mars armed with “death rays” to open hostilities against the inhabitants of earth. ("Radio Listeners in Panic, Taking War Drama as Fact").

The article said that broadcast caused massive traffic jams and disrupted phone connections all throughout New York ("Radio Listeners in Panic, Taking War Drama as Fact"). Thousands of people believed the broadcast and were so convinced by it that “a score of adults required medical treatment for shock and hysteria” ("Radio Listeners in Panic, Taking War Drama as Fact"). The fact that people were injured from a radio broadcast shows just how convincing the radio actually could be. People were hurt due to the fact that they believed something that they heard over the radio. All of the people listening to the broadcast did not think that the information they were receiving was false, which made it easier for the program to convince the public of this story. The radio broadcast was able to convince people that martians were attacking, which may seem like an absurd idea to some, but in actuality it is not that far-fetched. Most Americans had not really experienced this type of broadcast yet, they only heard the news or music, so when they heard a fake news station talking about an attack they immediately believed it. *War of the Worlds* showed the capability of the radio to trick society into believing

what they heard. The strength of broadcast's ability to influence how the public thinks, shows that the radio can change how the public's opinion of a war. A war requires a degree of the public's support in order to be successful, and without the radio being used to gain that support, the United States would not have joined into World War II.

The radio was also used to get information from the war in Europe, back to the United States faster. The army or journalists could be in Europe and send information back to the United States rapidly and then that information about the war could be spread to the public much faster than before. Previously, information was spread through newspapers, which had to be printed out in order to publicize information. With the new influx of information, the public could be convinced that they might have an immediate impact of the events of the war if they were to participate in some way. Some people might believe that they could help the innocent people being attacked by bombs or other forms of destruction. They would think that if the U.S. became involved, then innocent families could be saved and the culprits be caught. Government officials in Europe could also broadcast out to millions of people in America about the dire conditions in Europe (Hilmes 232). Once there were United States troops in Europe the radio was used to send updates back home about people who were killed or went missing in action (Hilmes 232). This was good for the families of soldiers to be able to know if their family member fighting was surviving, missing or, in the worst case scenario, dead. The broadcasts that came from Europe were also exceptionally good at enlistment propaganda. The soldiers in the war zones could broadcast back to Americans to increase enlistment into the army. These broadcasts straight from Europe were a different, and often more convincing, type of recruitment because the people could hear what was going on and through the voice of the speaker understand that the Allies

needed help in order to win the war. The increase of the radio made sure that the United States would become part of the war because there were now fast updates on how dreadful the situation in Europe was becoming.

The United States government soon realized that the radio could not only be used for entertainment purposes and information, but it could also be used to spread political propaganda and change the public's opinion. During the time before the United States joining the war, there were many radio broadcasts that were directed specifically at groups of people (Hilmes 234). There were radio broadcasts that aired during the day that were directed at women because even though many women had jobs, many still stayed at home. These broadcasts were meant to encourage women to believe that they could have a part in the war as well as men. One of these broadcasts was titled "What can I do?" and was intended for women to understand that they could have a big part in the war effort as well as the men (Hilmes 234). There were also many broadcasts directed at children. One of the shows called "From Oxford Pacifism to Fighter Pilot" featured a man who left Oxford University to become a fighter pilot for the British and ended up crashing across enemy lines. The man then had to make his way back home safely and avoid the enemy (Hilmes 234). It was a story meant to encourage little boys to want to grow to become a pilot and war hero themselves. The show was at 5:45 on Saturdays, which was a time that most children would be listening to radio programs before dinner and after the children had finished their homework (Hilmes 234). These broadcasts made the people who were targeted feel as though they had a certain obligations towards their country and each other. The broadcasts were very successful at getting encouraging young boys and men to join the army because every young man wants to be a hero. For the United States to join WWII, they needed a degree of

support from Americans behind them. Specifically targeted broadcasts enabled America to take part in the war with the support of men, women, and children.

There were targeted programs for women and children, but there were also programs that were directed at larger audiences. Programs like these often were meant to encourage widespread involvement for the war effort. Some meant to boost people's moral and others aimed at encouraging citizens that taking part in the war would be for the greater good. Some people were fooled and thought that the United States was already participating in the war. If people were not convinced into thinking the United States was already involved, then they at least got people to imagine how the U.S. could help and influence the war (Hilmes 232). Even Franklin D. Roosevelt went on the air a few times during the Fireside Chats to persuade people that the United States should be involved. Some of the broadcasts that were coming from Europe made people feel guilty that they were not helping the civilians who were being affected by the war (Hilmes 232). The guilt made people feel that the U.S. should be involved in the world to stop innocent civilians from being killed. "Speaking of Liberty" was a broadcast that aired during this time. The broadcast brought speakers onto the show to talk about how democracy is important and why liberty must be preserved during times of crisis (Council of Democracy). Broadcasts similar to this one made people want to participate in World War II. Without the growth of the radio most people would never had heard these broadcasts and therefore never would have been pro-war. This shows that the radio was a crucial part of the United States joining WWII.

The convincing quality of the radio made the United States involvement in World War II inevitable. Journalism and sports broadcasting allowed for information about the war to be spread to the public faster than ever before, while advertising allowed for the radio to be used in

new and unique ways. *War of the Worlds* demonstrated the new capabilities of the radio, and the United States government used the radio to push people to want to join into the war. The radio has similar qualities to its listeners as the television and movies have to viewers today. The radio and the television are capable of playing with the listener's emotions and can be used to guilt the viewer or listener into buying, or participating in things that person would never have done before. The power of new technology will only become more realistic and believable as time passes and technology advances, so no one knows how this technology will be used as propaganda methods in the future.

Word Count: 4624

Works Cited

Attig, Heather, Tony Esparza, Staci Wolfe, Jack Hope, and Chris Raine. "History of American Journalism." *History of American Journalism*. N.p., May 2003. Web. 28 Feb. 2015.

This is a website made by a group of college grad students that discusses American journalism. This website is helpful because it talks about journalists at different times throughout American history.

Arden, Robert. *News Commentary New Year War News*. KFWB, Los Angeles, California, 1 Jan. 1941. Radio.

This radio broadcast was helpful in understanding how the radio was used for both advertising, and for propaganda. Throughout the broadcast there are intervals where an announcer talks about a dentist that clearly hired the station to advertise his business.

Council of Democracy. "Speaking of Liberty." *Speaking of Liberty*. Dir. Rex Stout. N.d.

Radio.

This is a radio broadcast that aired in the time before the United States joined WWII. The broadcast featured many well known people who spoke about Democracy and what America should do about Europe. The Council of Democracy created the program and Rex Stout was the host. This broadcast shows listeners what people were actually talking about during this time on radios.

Craig, Douglas B. *Fireside Politics: Radio and Political Culture in the United States, 1920-1940*. Baltimore, Maryland: John Hopkins UP, 2000. Print.

Fireside Politics: Radio and Political Culture in the United States is about the growth of radio broadcasting for commercial purposes. This book is important to the process because it gave the reader insight as to how commercial radio broadcasting grew over time.

Eskenazi, Gerald. *I Hid It under the Sheets: Growing up with Radio*. Columbia: U of Missouri, 2005. Print.

This book provided the reader with a view of how what it was like for children to grow up during the radio broadcast era. This is a first person account of what it was

like as a child to hear these radio broadcasts and how they impacted his life and the new mass medium of communication in American culture.

Haring, Kristen. *Ham Radio's Technical Culture*. Cambridge, MA: MIT, 2007. Print.

This book shows how the Hams grew in number and activities over time. Ham radio was very popular in the early 1900s and the book demonstrates how Hams became very popular and widely known throughout America and the world.

Hilmes, Michele. *Radio Voices: American Broadcasting, 1922-1952*. Minneapolis, MN: U of Minnesota, 1997. Print.

Radio Voices: American Broadcasting is about how the increase of radio popularity brought everyone closer during wars. Radio transmitters could be set up in army camps which allowed for people to communicate faster from war. This book allows for the reader to understand the impact of the radio on war.

Lavine, Harold, and James A. Wechsler. *War Propaganda and the United States*. New Haven: Yale UP, 1940. Print.

This book allowed for the reader to understand how propaganda was a major influence on people in the United States. The book mostly focuses on American propaganda about WWII, but also touches on Nazi and Soviet propaganda.

Nazi Shortwave Propaganda Radio Broadcast. 1940-1945. Internet Archive. Web. 22 Feb. 2015.

This is a collection of radio broadcasts that were aired by the nazis in Britain and were used to try and convince the English that they should become Nazis. While I listened to them I found the to be very interesting and I could see how people were persuaded by listening to these.

"Police Radio Moving to Shorter Waves." *Boston Globe* 24 Dec. 1933: n. pag. Print.

This is a newspaper article that shows the impact of the radio on the police in Boston. The article says that the increase of public use of the radio meant that unauthorized people were hearing about crimes, and sometimes arriving to crime scenes, before the police. It goes on to further explain what the Boston police did to combat this new challenge.

"Radio." Encyclopedia of American Social History. Ed. Mary Kupiec Cayton, Elliott J. Gorn, and Peter W. Williams. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1993. U.S. History in Context. Web. 9 Nov. 2014." N.p., n.d. Web.

This encyclopedia talks about the increase of the radio in American History. It is a broad overview of the effect of radio broadcasting and how it was important in many aspects of Americans lives.

"Radio Listeners in Panic, Taking War Drama as Fact." *New York Times* 31 Oct. 1938: n. pag. *New York Times*. Web. 4 Jan. 2015.

This is a New York Times article that talks about the effect of *War of the Worlds* on specifically New York but also mentions all over the country. *War of the Worlds* was a radio broadcast that many people found extremely convincing, and it cause mass panic all over America. The article is from the next day and explains why people found the broadcast so convincing.

"Regulating Radio." American Decades Primary Sources. Ed. Cynthia Rose. Vol. 3: 1920-1929. Detroit: Gale, 2004. 92-96. U.S. History in Context. Web. 3 Nov. 2014. N.p., n.d. Web.

"Regulating Radio" talks about how in the very beginning, many people were very concerned about radios. It explains how the government responded to people's concerns and how they had to create new part of the government in order to contain the radio.

United States of America. Department of Commerce. Washington Government Printing. *Recommendations for Regulation of Radio Adopted by the Third National Radio Conference*. Washington DC: n.p., 1924. Web. 22 Feb. 2015.

This is a document that I found online from the third national radio conference that was called by Herbert Hoover. I read part of the the document and I looked at how the regulations around the radio were beginning to change as it became more popular.

Wells, H. G. "War of the Worlds." *Mercury Theatre on Air*. Dir. and Narr. Orson Welles. Columbia Broadcasting System radio network. 30 Oct. 1938. YouTube. Web. Video

clip.

War of the Worlds was a radio broadcast in 1938 that was intended as a joke, but many people believed it and it caused mass panic. The broadcast is about aliens attack New York and murdering thousands of people. The broadcast was meant to sound realistic like a realistic news report, however it sounded too real and people believed it and began to flee New York City.

Bibliographical Reflection

Over all, I did not find the Junior Thesis process to be nearly as bad as I first thought it would be. When it was first introduced, it seemed very overwhelming because of how broad the assignment was, but over time it did not seem nearly as broad as it once did. In the beginning I had a lot of trouble finding a topic that would both be interesting for a long period of time, but also be something I could argue. I found that I changed what I was arguing often during the process, and even while writing the drafts, that I did not really form an argument for a very long time. I think that if we had taken a block, or even a half of a block, to sit down and talk about it with a classmate early on in the process it would help have helped me develop an argument sooner. When I was having trouble finding an argument, I talked about it with Rebecca and then all of my information came together and clicked for me. I do not know if this would help anyone else, but as I sit here writing this the night before the paper is due, I think that would have been really helpful.

Throughout the process I also found that making my bibliography was difficult at times. When I was listening to radio broadcasts it was very difficult to create citations for them because the author and a lot of the other information was not given on the website I found them on. Easybib was helpful for some of them, but others required me to do outside research on a broadcast in order to find the necessary information for the bibliography, and I still could not for some. There was one I listened to, *Nazi Shortwave Propaganda Radio Broadcast*, that did not have a real title for the broadcast, nor authors who contributed towards it. I tried my best to cite it properly, but I did not really know how. Also, while citing *War of the Worlds*, I talked to my uncle who is a librarian and he was really helpful citing it. I was not entirely sure how to cite it

because it was the first broadcast I cited, but after talking with him I was able to use the information that he gave me to cite my other broadcasts.

I also had many people edit my paper throughout the process. I started out with Amy editing it in class, and then moved onto my friend who read it over and made comments, then my dad read it. I found that all of their comments were helpful in writing my thesis.

I think the that part that I enjoyed the most about the process, aside from right now when I am almost done with it, was learning so much information about the radio and its uses over time. I knew that the radio was a powerful propaganda method, but I did not know how powerful it was until I started researching and listening to broadcasts. When I listened to *War of the Worlds*, I found myself in suspense of what would happen next! This happens to many people while watching television, but I never knew how powerful listening to something could really be. After listening to it I fully realized that it was completely understandable for chaos to ensue after the broadcast aired.

Throughout this process I learned a lot about both the radio (obviously) and also my writing style. I have discovered this year that I need to improve upon explaining the arguments that I am trying to prove. Most of the time I have solid arguments, they just need to be proven in a way that makes sense with the topic of that given paper. I have also learned how truly helpful outlines can be. I always knew that outlining is an important step, and I do it for most of my papers, but I do not always see the point in it. However, this paper showed me what a key step in the writing process an outline really is.