



Voices in Durham

CITYSTUDIO

DURHAM

Project Summary:

Voices in Durham worked to allow students a hands-on opportunity to report on the diverse region of Durham, play leadership roles, practice public speaking skills, and craft stories that are not actively being told in the local news scene. One of the goals of a journalist is to be the “voice of the people” and this stands as an example of why it’s important to listen and tell the stories that are not being heard in news today.

Project Goals:

The goal of the project is to tell the stories of underrepresented communities in Durham Region, allow students the opportunity to utilize skills learned in class to publish these stories in a tangible way. These tangible ways to tell their stories include audio, video and written stories. Another goal of the project is to increase students’ civic engagement and exposure to different perspectives in their own community. Finally, students gained experience of planning and executing a class trip to the RTDNA conference to gain further knowledge of the journalism field.

Methods:

A strong effort was made to give students the opportunity to witness the job market through the RTDNA conference and consider their future in the industry. Giving students the “power” to take on roles during the virtual panels for Voices in Durham instilled a sense of confidence and allowed them to express the ability to practice their professional skills. Community Listening Event gave students opportunity to meet with important figures in Durham Region and get to know them face to face. For all panels, in-person or virtual, a Q&A is held to incentivise engaging in discussion.

Outcomes:

- Three virtual panels hosted in the first semester are recorded and available.
- The Community Listening Event was a live event which was then cut and edited into a video using multi-cam.
- The final broadcast is available on Riot Radio’s website. Some of the videos that first-year students did are available to watch.

Why is this important?:

The Voices in Durham projects teaches students how to collect, create, edit, and publish or broadcast stories in the diverse community of Durham Region. The project instills ideas for young journalists and reminds them of the diverse community they live in. Students learn why it’s important to put your boots to the ground and go out into the world to tell these stories, in a mindful and compassionate way.

