CSMF CALIFORNIA STUDENT MEDIA FESTIVAL

CSMF Rubric - AUDIO (Podcast, Spoken Word Poetry, Audio-only Interviews)

	Technical Expertise: Technical Expertise (Recording, Editing, Mixing, Sound Design)	**Content Story/Concept:** (Clear premise, structure, research, listener impact)	**Creative/Innovative** (Format, voice, originality, creative risk-taking)	**Media Literacy:** (Ethics, sourcing/credits, accessibility/transcripts, medium-message reflection) LINK TO CITATION TIPS
9-10	Professional-level clarity; consistent levels; clean edits; purposeful use of silence, music, SFX, ambience; performance enhances meaning.	Clear, compelling message; strong structure; polished writing or planning; depth of insight or emotion; listener deeply engaged.	Fresh, distinctive voice and form; risks succeed; memorable choices set project apart.	Full credits; clear permissions/consent; transcript or alternative text included; strong awareness of representation and ethics; reflective relationship to medium.
7-8	Minor issues but strong capture and edits; performance mostly confident; music/SFX supportive.	Strong message and structure; good preparation; impact present but not exceptional.	Clear creative elements; some originality; a few risks taken.	Most credits and ethics handled well; transcript included; minor gaps.
5-6	Noticeable issues (uneven levels, noise, rough cuts); performance adequate; music/SFX inconsistent.	Understandable but general; some structure present; insight or emotional depth limited.	Some creative attempts but mostly conventional; limited experimentation.	Basic credits and transcript; ethical awareness present but incomplete.
3-4	Significant audio problems interfere with impact; editing distracts; performance or mixing weak.	Weak or confusing purpose; underdeveloped structure; minimal preparation.	Few creative decisions; predictable or flat style.	Missing or inconsistent credits; limited ethical thinking.
1-2	Audio impedes understanding; unclear vocals; chaotic levels; music/SFX obstruct meaning.	No clear message; chaotic or absent structure; listener confused or disengaged.	Little to no originality; derivative or disengaged.	No credits/transcript; no evidence of ethical or accessibility considerations.