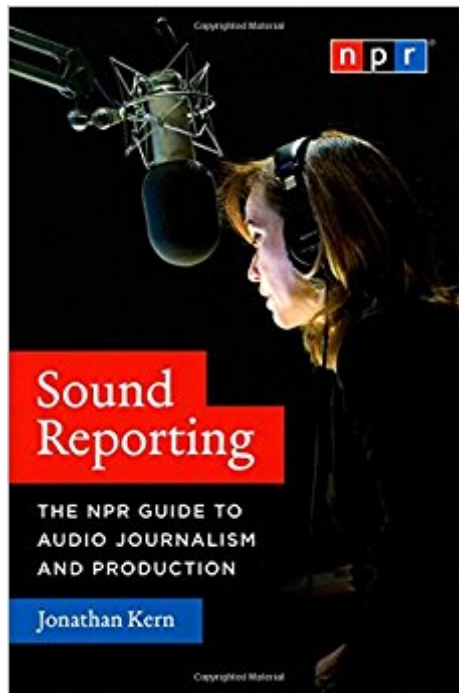


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# Sound Reporting: The NPR Guide To Audio Journalism And Production



## Synopsis

Perhaps you've always wondered how public radio gets that smooth, well-crafted sound. Maybe you're thinking about starting a podcast, and want some tips from the pros. Or maybe storytelling has always been a passion of yours, and you want to learn to do it more effectively. Whatever the case—whether you're an avid NPR listener or you aspire to create your own audio, or both—*Sound Reporting: The NPR Guide to Audio Journalism and Production* will give you a rare tour of the world of a professional broadcaster. Jonathan Kern, who has trained NPR's on-air staff for years, is a gifted guide, able to narrate a day in the life of a host and lay out the nuts and bolts of production with equal wit and warmth. Along the way, he explains the importance of writing the way you speak, reveals how NPR books guests ranging from world leaders to neighborhood newsmakers, and gives sage advice on everything from proposing stories to editors to maintaining balance and objectivity. Best of all—because NPR wouldn't be NPR without its array of distinctive voices—lively examples from popular shows and colorful anecdotes from favorite personalities animate each chapter. As public radio's audience of millions can attest, NPR's unique guiding principles and technical expertise combine to connect with listeners like no other medium can. With today's technologies allowing more people to turn their home computers into broadcast studios, *Sound Reporting* couldn't have arrived at a better moment to reveal the secrets behind the story of NPR's success.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As a working journalist, I found this book thoroughly refreshing and chock full of some of the best advice on how to put together a great radio, broadcast or web story. It's full of detail and fresh real-life examples using real reporters and stories from NPR. Any NPR junkie would love this book. The author has a fresh and easy writing style which should put journalism textbooks to shame. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in how stories come together, or those learning to do it for themselves. I honestly wish I had read this book 10 years ago.

As someone who works in journalism at a NPR affiliate, I have to say that "Sound Reporting: The NPR Guide to Audio Journalism and Production" -- is probably the most authoritative book on the subject of audio journalism published so far. Whether you are new to journalism -- or if you've been in the industry for a good while and would like a refresher -- this book has something for you. While it deals specifically with audio journalism and production as it pertains to NPR (and sometimes its member stations), this guide is nonetheless invaluable to anyone who wants to get involved in news reporting operations at ANY level (including radio, print, TV and new media). Want to know what it's like to be a news host, field reporter, booker, producer, studio director ... or commentator? It's all here. More importantly, "Sound Reporting" delves into the ever-so-important topics of fairness, ethics (as applied to both reporting and editing), and how to write well for broadcast. It also offers suggestions on how news providers can stay relevant in the age of the Internet and new media (e.g. podcasts, blogs, etc.). Since all forms of news reporting (print, TV, radio, blogs, etc.) are converging on the Internet, this is especially relevant for today. And if you're just an NPR geek who wants to learn more about how shows like "Morning Edition" and "All Things Considered" get made in a 24-hour cycle and broadcast across the country -- this is the book for you. My only minor issue is that "Sound Reporting" could have been a bit shorter, but it's a relatively minor nitpick because the book is very readable and the author, Jonathan Kern, has a witty and even occasionally humorous writing style. It's well worth reading!

Upon starting classes to work on a radio broadcast and production certificate and being a fan of NPR I thought that would be a worthy read to understand the background work that needs to be done in order to put their radio shows on the air. This was a very complete and well written book that takes the reader in to the studios and the minds of the people who have decades of experience working at NPR. The book has a lot of information about what to expect in certain situations when reporting, editing and producing the different types of shows that NPR provides. If you are a fan of All Things Considered or Morning Edition you will enjoy the narration of the book because it is

similar in nature to those shows. And that makes sense because the writer of this book was formally the executive director of All Things Considered.

It's a great book for those without a great deal of audio experience, but it's still a fun read for those who have been in radio for years. Many tips, tricks, and how-to's, plus great stories to illustrate those lessons.

Jonathan Kern does the profession a favor by capturing and explaining the practices of the best broadcast journalists in America today. The book may serve the interests of many, but I see this as a practical manual for those of us still making radio news -- and trying to do it very well. Excellent use of actual examples. Comfy, readable style. Thanks, Jonathan! -- MM

It's an exhaustive how-to guide that will give you a great sense of audio journalism. Hopefully, when you are done with the book, or at least get a grasp on what's in store for you, take the book's advice and start finding opportunities. Cheers.

As a popular podcaster I've tried my best to gain knowledge in the field of broadcast radio because it is essential that I produce content that could just as easily be heard on the radio. Quality is important in my field. This book is a great resource for those interested in becoming better at radio or podcasting.

As someone already trained in radio but looking for a refresher, this was great. Although some of the style tips are very NPR specific, the book is very thorough in covering all the elements needed for sound reporting, from the field to the studio.

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