

SOUNDBITES ACTIVITY #6

LISTENING

LISTENING SESSION: YOUTH RADIO

SET-UP:

GUIDING QUESTION: Why is youth-produced media important to our community?

TOOLS:

- Something to write with and something to write on
- Smartphone or computer and speaker to play audio stories from the internet
- Optional: A discussion partner, such as a parent, sibling, friend (virtual) or anyone else!

VOCABULARY:

- **Active Listening:** The skill of concentrating one's full attention and focus on the content they are engaging with.

INTRODUCTION

In the same way reading is critical to becoming a better writer, listening to audio stories and podcasts is one of the best ways to develop your audio storytelling skills. Whether it's chatting with a friend or watching TV, listening is something we do everyday. However, not all listening is the same. In order to learn by listening, it's important to participate in **active listening**, or the skill of concentrating one's full attention and focus on the content they are listening to.

In the following activity, you will have the opportunity to practice active listening, think critically about story structure, and learn about the Rohingya refugee crisis — all while listening to a RadioActive youth-produced story!

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THE ACTIVITY:

- 1. Get ready to listen:** Find a comfortable place where you can concentrate on actively listening to the story. While you're at it, grab something to write with. This is also a good time to find someone else to listen with you (or send your friend a link, so you can discuss the story together later on!). Also, take a glance at the discussion questions below to get an idea of what to keep your ear out for.
- 2. Press Play:** Pull up today's story, *A Rohingya teen escaped genocide in Myanmar. This is how he ended up on Mercer Island*, on your listening device by clicking the link below. While you listen, make sure to take notes on the things that stick out to you.

[> LISTEN: A Rohingya teen escaped genocide in Myanmar. This is how he ended up on Mercer Island](#)

- 3. Discuss/Reflect:** Use the discussion questions listed below to guide your thoughts. If you listened to the story with a partner, you can now talk through the following questions with them. And if you're on your own, no worries— write out your answers to these questions on paper or think through them in your head.
- 4. Share:** When you are done discussing/thinking/writing, feel free to reach out to RadioActive on social media @kuowradioactive on Instagram or Twitter, or RadioActive Youth Media on Facebook to share your thoughts. We will be sharing the responses online and always love to talk to listeners about RadioActive stories.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are grouped into three categories — questions about the content of the story, questions that allow you to practice your storytelling skills, and questions about youth media.

STORY CONTENT

- 1.** Who are the Rohingya? (Optional: [Watch this 90-second clip](#) from the UN to learn more about the crisis, or do your own research online).
- 2.** What challenges does Mohammad face? How does he overcome them?
- 3.** What does home mean to Mohammad? What does home mean to you?
- 4.** How many countries does Mohammad travel through before reaching the United States? List them! (Don't worry if you lose track, this is simply an opportunity to practice your active listening).
- 5.** What did you learn from Mohammad's journey? How can you apply these lessons to your own life?

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STORYTELLING

1. What hooks you into the story? Why does it grab your attention?
2. Other than the narrator and Mohammad, list the different sounds you hear throughout the story. How do these sounds keep the story engaging?
3. Remember the Seven Sentence Story structure from [SoundBites Activity #1](#)? See if you can fit this story into that structure.
4. What moments in the story stuck out to you the most? Why?

YOUTH RADIO

1. Why is youth-produced media important to our community?
2. Should adults be reading and listening to youth-produced media? Why or why not?

MEET THE YOUTH PRODUCER

The story you just listened to was produced by Meghana Kakubal. Meghana first participated in the RadioActive Youth Media Intro to Radio Journalism Workshop in 2018 and has stayed involved ever since. A current senior in high school, Meghana works hard to create community around her. Whether as drum major for her high school band or her work as Program Director of radio station KMIH 88.9 The Bridge, Meghana believes in the power of conversation and storytelling to create relationships. Listen to other stories by Meghana [here!](#)

MORE YOUTH-PRODUCED RADIO STORIES

- [Hijabis on the soccer field: This teen founded a camp for Muslim girls like her](#) (RadioActive Youth Media in Seattle, WA)
- [The debate over gun training to prevent school shootings](#) (YR Media in Oakland, CA)
- [Not the 'right' kind of gay](#) (Radio Rookies in New York, NY)
- [A child's English skills are a lifeline for some immigrant families](#) (MPR Young Reporters series in Saint Paul, MN)