SOUNDS FROM THE PARK

HOMEWORK EXERCISE

In the 1930s there were one hundred public speaking places in London alone. It wasn't just Hyde Park. Seeing "stump orators" declaiming in marketplaces and parks was a common sight, but today Speakers' Corner is the last place in London outdoor speaking happens regularly.

For homework you are going to carry out an oral history interview with a relative or friend to find out more about how communication methods have changed over their lifetime.

You can choose to interview someone older than you, like a parent or grandparent, or someone of a similar age to you.

1. Think about what questions you are going to ask first. Write a list of subjects you might need to ask questions about. How did they find out about things and form their opinions before and has that changed? How has the person you interview communicated their own views to others?

Example questions:

- How did you find out news when you were younger?
- Has that changed now?
- How did you share your opinions with other people?

2. Before the interview remind yourself about the interviewing skills you learnt in class.

Do:

- Be clear.
- Ask open questions so you don't get 'yes' or 'no' answers.
- Listen actively – ask follow up questions!

on the RECORD

- Relax! Pauses are ok – they give people time to think.
- Be flexible.
- Have empathy – think what it would be like to be interviewed yourself.

Don't:

- Ask two questions at once.
- Ask leading questions like:

  "It was worse then wasn't it?"

- Interrupt.
- Judge or patronise: be respectful!

3. Record your interview if you can. You could use a dictaphone, your phone, your tablet or mp3 player or just take some notes during the interview.

4. Make your own timeline using the sheet provided, as soon after the interview as possible while it's still fresh in your mind.