

## Recording Equipment Recommendations

The following suggestions are some of many possibilities. See what recording equipment is available to you through your school library, media resources and/or your public library. There may also be local businesses that may either have or may contribute to the purchase of this equipment for student community research.

The ideal situation is to have students use professional equipment that will support quality work. With all the effort and energy it takes to organize interviews, it is most beneficial to make the recordings as clean, effective and archival as possible.

**Reminder:** Don't forget to order tape stock BEFORE the day of the interview and to label each tape with the name, date and place of the interview.

### **Audio Recording Equipment :**

Although it is possible to record from less expensive recorders and to use the internal microphone, this is highly discouraged. Get a recorder that has the inputs for external microphones and headsets. Treating student interviews as important, real work is proven by providing good equipment for them to work with.

(Suggestions from "Peer Reporter Handbook, How to Make Your Own Radio Diary" Radio Diaries, 169 Ave. A Suite 13 New York, NY 10009. [info@raiodiaries.org](mailto:info@raiodiaries.org))

Tape Recorder: Marantz PMD 222 cassette recorder (\$350 - \$400)  
Sony TCD5 (\$700)

DAT Recorder: Sony PCM-M1 (\$700 – \$750)

Mini-Disc: There are a variety of mini-disk players costing around \$300. Look for the most durable and one that has the ability to line-out both digitally and analog. Mini-disks tend to be more fragile, and though they can produce great sound, they are small and easy to pocket.

Microphones: Beyer M58 (\$160 – \$180)

Electro Voice RE50 (\$160 - \$180)

Directional shotgun microphones are useful in situations where you can't get too close or when there is a lot of distracting background sound.

**You'll also need:** Headphones – don't use earplugs. (\$40 - \$50)

Microphone cable (\$10 - \$15)

Batteries

Tape stock – Video Tape Resources are reliable and well priced, 1-800-827-3462. Use good quality.

**Reminder:** Bring pens, notebooks, photos and research material (if applicable) and interview questions.

To cross-reference prices try:

Full Compass 800-356-5844 or Bradley Broadcast 800-732-7665

**Video Equipment:**

Contact local business or go on-line to obtain good advise about field production packages best suited for your class' needs. Be sure to ask about educational discounts. Depending upon your budget and editing facilities you will want to acquire a digital or an analog system. Either way, you will want the following items:

Camcorder – digital is preferable, but if that's not affordable try S-VHS or Hi8 cameras before settling for a VHS system. VHS is the lowest common denominator, and many schools have VCR's, yet the quality of the video image is superior with the other two formats.

Tripod – essential when documenting an entire interview. Be sure to get a fluid head.

External microphone(s), headsets and mic cables

Batteries, extension chords and A/C adaptor

Field monitor (optional)

Tape stock (same source as with the audio equipment)

**Some Local Resources to try:**

Video Technical Services, Albuquerque, NM

GC Video, Albuquerque, NM

Ballios, Santa Fe or Albuquerque

Circuit City, Albuquerque, NM

Videomaker Magazine. [www.videomaker.com](http://www.videomaker.com) for good information