

Your Results May Vary**

Hello and thanks for your interest in the Your Results May Vary zipcast. The YRMV project is an experiment to look at what is known as Electronic Voice Phenomenon or EVP.

EVP is the recording of voices of voices in recording media that are not audibly present at the time of the recording.

The idea of the existence of EVP is fairly controversial. Conventional skeptical wisdom holds that EVP is no more than an example of the human mind interpreting sounds that are present as voices, but that are not actually voices. Alternatively, if voices are present, they are the product of the recording device picking up radio waves, i.e. commercial radio, analog cordless phone signals, baby monitors, etc.

The YRMV project is designed take advantage of an enthusiastic podcasting community to distribute and analyze the data collected in a controlled environment.

Requirements.

1. Audacity for Windows. (Audacity is located as a free download at <http://audacity.sourceforge.net>. For now, the YRMV is designed as a MS Windows focused project. This may change if there is demand for the Mac and Linux platforms, although I've been able to open at least one .aup file in mac 10.3 that was produced on a windows machine in)
2. Podcast aggregator. This will make it easier to download the data files. Unfortunately, itunes won't recognize .zip files. I've had some success with [Juice](http://juicereceiver.sourceforge.net/index.php) <http://juicereceiver.sourceforge.net/index.php> Alternatively, you can get the .zip files directly from <http://yourresultsmayvary.libsyn.com>

Procedure.

1. Download periodic zipped data files. The feed is at <http://yourresultsmayvary.libsyn.com/rss>
2. Unzip the downloaded zipped folder. This folder will have a number of files within it. It should have three .wav files (recorded audio files), one .mov file (video file showing that day's experiment), one .pdf file (data sheet), and one .aup file (audacity file that synchronizes the .wav files)
3. In Audacity, open the .aup file. This opens the audio files within audacity and places them side by side. The files are edited down to the "official" part of the experiment. You can open the separate .wav files if you'd like, but there's a lot of noise in the outlying portions of the file.
4. Listen to the each track, with the other tracks muted. There is a button on the left side of each track that mutes it or allows it to be played. Track A is controlled for sound by recording in the audio boxes. Track B is controlled for sound and radio by recording in a length of copper pipe, also within the audio boxes. Track C is not controlled, it records on top of the boxes, so any sounds in the environment are known. You'll hear the operator asking questions, trucks driving by on the bridge, neighbors shlepping around and flushing toilets upstairs, pots clanking, etc. The C track is possibly the most important track. If anything is heard on the A or B tracks, it is possible that its source is sound from the external environment getting through the boxes.
5. If you hear a possible utterance on either the A or B tracks, please send an email to evppodcast@yahoo.com with the following information 1. the YRMV session number 2. The Track (A, B, or C) 3. The time of the utterance as shown in the audacity file.

** The name acknowledges that the recordings presented here may not represent what would happen if you duplicated the same procedure. I hope other people will try to improve upon those procedures and do their own experiments.