

9.5.16

Hello Helen,

I just read Bruno Guissani's backstory about Marwa Al-Sabouni's incredibly sobering TED talk.

Bruno wrote at length about technical difficulties, particularly with the sound quality.

Depending on how important it is to actually see the speaker speak, I've got some work-arounds that might be helpful in such situations in the future.

I am writing to you because I can't for the life of me figure out how to write to Bruno directly. There's a contact link in the footer of the TED site, but, well, this is actually easier... Could you forward this on to Bruno? Thanks.

So...if a speaker has access to an iPhone or a similarly talented smart phone, the voice memos recorder is surprisingly good. Not great, but decent. If a speaker is reading from a script, the talk can be recorded in smaller, easier-to-upload-and-send sections and stitched back together in edit.

An even better hack is to try to get a plug'n'play usb microphone such as a Blue Yeti to the speaker. Audio files can be sent electronically and if connectivity is dicey, recorded in sections.

This is an example of Blue Yeti recording I made of my children's author friend Stuart last May. We were sitting in a hotel dining room during a conference. Since Stuart and I are so rarely in the same place at the same time, we cut seven tracks in a little over an hour from pre-edited scripts.

Again, not as great as great can be, but when that isn't possible, not too shabby... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqNF04ZPss0>

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I'm just thinking that your little boy is probably getting old enough for some of these books. Wow!

btw, I'll be in NY for a few days starting on September 20, in part to see Willie Smits at Columbia.

All best,

Janet
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