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### Court Reporters: Why relying on audio sync can hurt your career

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There is much ongoing discussion in our office about audio sync, its benefits and disadvantages. For the experienced reporter, having the audio backup is a valuable tool. There is always at least one instance in a deposition where you want to hear a word or phrase again. But that's where it ends.

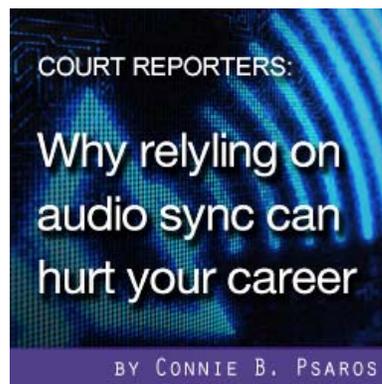
The majority of the [court reporters](#) in this office were trained before [audio sync](#) came about, and we believe we are the better for it. We practiced, passed our certification exams, and went to work. This is before computer-aided transcription. We had only our [steno machines](#) in those days; no laptop. If we didn't get the testimony, we had to interrupt or it would be lost forever. That made us better writers! We felt the pressure to get it right the first time. We learned to stretch and push ourselves to get every word. There was no backup. We were it.

Now with audio sync, we find that some young reporters are a bit lackadaisical when on the job, and we find that worrisome. The temptation to just sit back and rely on audio sync is very real. Why sweat it out when you can listen to the backup later? Why interrupt when the audio will catch it? Why pay attention when you can listen to it later?

Trust me when I tell you that the day will come when you will lose your audio file. It happens to everyone at least once and often without notice. And it won't fail on the easy job. but on the impossibly hard one. What will you do then? This is why [building your speed](#), relying on your own skills, and being in control on a job is the best way to avoid disaster.

The audio sync, used wisely, can be a great tool. It is not meant to be a crutch. It should be used only as a verification tool in spot instances and should not be relied on to produce a transcript from scratch. Busy reporters do not have the time to listen to every word from start to finish. Good reporters have the confidence to know that when they leave a deposition or hearing, their skills have their back.

Learn about [Prince Institute's student advantage](#) and in-demand court reporting and captioning career paths.



*About the Author: Constance B. Psaros is vice president of operations at [Doris O. Wong Associates](#)—a court reporting firm located in Boston with an enduring reputation for excellence and integrity. Connie has been a court reporter since 1979. She is responsible for day-to-day operations and also helps train new reporters just entering the field. Connie is a Registered Professional Reporter and a member of the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) and the Massachusetts Court Reporters Association (MCRA).*

*By Connie B. Psaros, RPR, CMRS, Doris O. Wong Associates, Inc.*

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