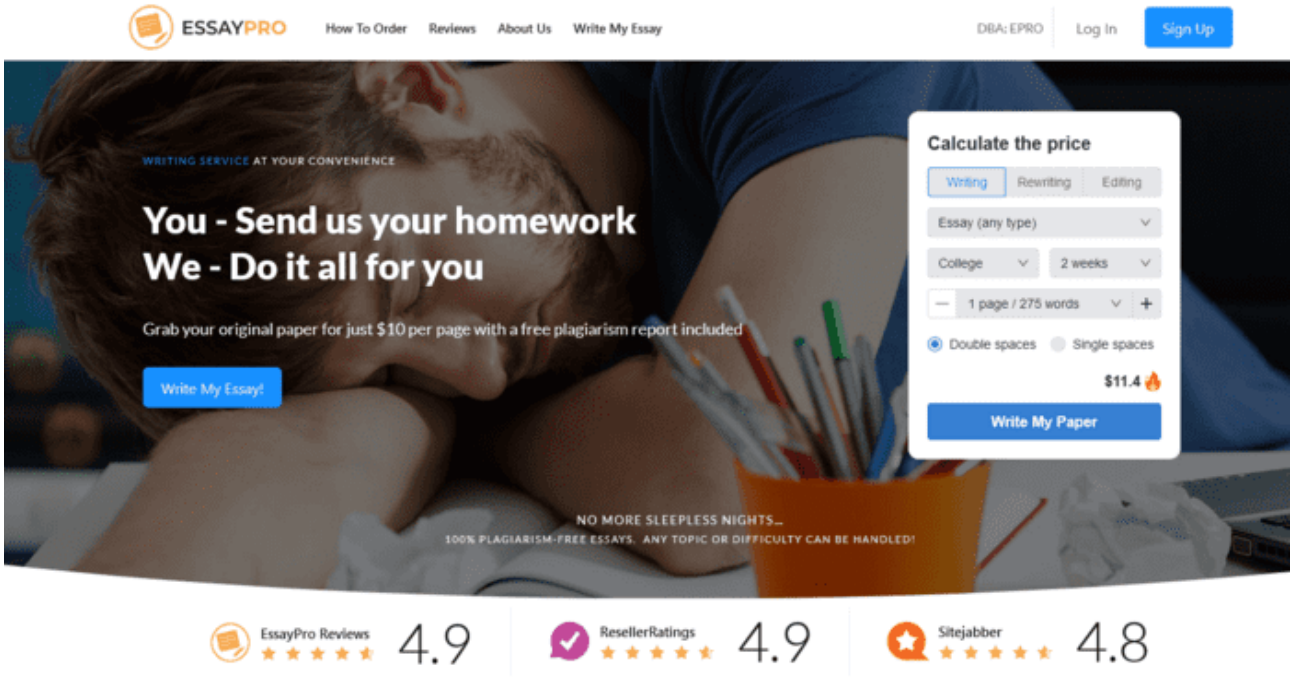
What is a Microphone?



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Microphones are used everywhere, from stage performances, broadcasting, and even talking on the phone. The microphone is a transducer, a machine that changes one form energy to another form of energy.

“Microphone is a device which converts a acoustic energy (received as vibratory motion of air particles) into electrical energy (sent along the microphone cable as vibratory motion of elementary electrical particles called ‘electrons’) (Borwick 1990). A collector of sound is basically what a microphone is. A problem can happen because of the acoustical energy in the voices of people and instruments start and stop. (Clifford 1992). The basic part is the diaphragm that responds to pressure or the particle velocity of the sound waves. Microphone the term came around about 1827 in a description by Wheatstone’s about an acoustic device. (Borwick 1990) The person who invented the workable microphone is Alexander Graham Bell around 1876. According to this article the first few forms of the microphone was invented by Emile Berliner, David E. Hughes, and Thomas A. Edison around 1877. “The carbon microphone which was used in the first telephones and was very popular in telephones until about 1970 contained loose packed carbon grains. (Ballou 1991) Microphones, over the years have improved in quality and the prices are getter lower. (Eargle 1981)

“As a collector of sound a microphone must fulfill three basic requirements: to provide an electrical signal well above the microphone’s self noise; to provide undistorted output over a wide dynamic range, and, when used with associated equipment, to respond equally well to all frequencies produced by the sound source.” (Clifford 1992)

All microphones have a certain response, which is called p...

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