

1. **Interview:** Interview-style podcasts typically have a host or pair of co-hosts who conduct an interview with a person of interest, similar to a TV talk show.

Instructions: For this assignment you will create 5-8 minutes of edited podcast audio about **wordplay**. Play to your strengths: do you have a deep expertise of something you want to research and discuss? Consider the monologue. Do you love chatting with friends about the latest and greatest? Consider the co-host model. Do you have a curiosity to learn more about a subject? Consider the interview. Do you love making up stories? Consider the fiction podcast.

Examples

- Double Entendres in Rap
- The Contemporary Popularity of Word Games
- Children's Nonsense Poetry
- What are Pun Competitions?
- Wordplay at Theme Parks
- Fictional Story Using Wordplay

Script

C: Hey everyone! Welcome to "Beyond the Punchline," with Caroline and Alyssa!

C: I'm Caroline a senior marketing student about to graduate the university of Tampa!

A: and im alyssa, a senior marketing major gradating next week too!

C: In today's episode, we're diving deep into the fascinating world of wordplay, specifically exploring how artists weave it into their music.

A: Buckle up because we're about to dissect some clever lyrics and have some fun! For those who are unfamiliar with the idea of wordplay, wordplay refers to the manipulation of language in a clever or playful manner, often involving puns, double entendres, homophones, rhymes, or other linguistic devices.

C: In our first segment, we'll explore the art of word play, particularly in the realm of music. Alyssa and I will discuss our thoughts on how artists use wordplay to create memorable lyrics and engage their audience.

A: I'm excited to dive into this discussion. So, Caroline, what artist comes to mind when you think of someone that uses word play effectively?

C: I think Nicki Minaj uses some awesome word play and specifically uses a lot of rhyming in her songs.

A: Good one! I love Nicki Minaj, she was actually one of the first concerts I went to. Can you elaborate on a specific example of a song where she uses word play?

C: The first song I always think of is Super Bass. She uses alliteration in the line "This one is for the boys with the booming system, top down, AC with the cooling system": with the repeated "b" sounds in "boys," "booming," "system," and "AC," creating a rhythmic and attention-grabbing opening line.

A: That is definitely a great example of wordplay. Gets the song stuck in your head.

C: Another example I thought is the lyric, "He ill, he real, he might gotta deal, he pop bottles and he got the right kind of bill". Here, Minaj uses internal rhyme with words like "ill," "real," "deal," and "bill," enhancing the flow and rhythm of the verse while also showcasing her clever wordplay.

A: Oooo I love that rhyme. My favorite Nicki Minaj song is definitely Roman's Revenge, have you found any examples from that song?

C: Yeah that song is full of wordplay! When she says "I guess I went commercial, just shot a commercial / When I flew to the set, though, I ain't fly commercial." She uses three different

meanings of the word commercial. The first usage, "I guess I went commercial," suggests that she's gone mainstream or become more commercially successful. The second means she was literally on set filming a TV commercial. The third time, she says "I ain't fly commercial" meaning that she flew privately.

A: I loved all those examples of wordplay. I forgot how good Nicki Minaj is with her lyrics and creativity.

C: Me too! All her songs are so catchy!

A: Maybe, I will investigate if she is on tour because I would love to see her in concert again!

C: yeah let me know, because I would totally be down to go with you if she comes to Tampa!

A: Speaking of concerts, you attended the tour of the year – the Eras tour. How was that?

C: It absolutely blew me away. Her performance and stage production was so unique and awe-inspiring. I don't know how she does it!

A: This is a great segway into our next segment – Taylor Swift's lyrics.

C: Taylor is definitely a lyrical genius, I can definitely think of some examples of word play in her songs.

A: Yes - In her hit, "Blank Space", there is a double entendre incorporated throughout. The entire song plays with the idea of a "blank space" referring to both the space in her life after a breakup and the blank space in a diary where she writes about them. We see this in the line, "Got a long list of ex-lovers / They'll tell you I'm insane / But I've got a blank space, baby / And I'll write your name". Here she adds a subtle layer of suggestion, hitting at the exes' potential bias while acknowledging the "crazy-ex girlfriend" trope that is often portrayed in the media.

C: That song is definitely a T-Swift classic, I have never really thought about the lyrics like that.

A: it's genius. Another one of her songs that is full of wordplay is "Red". In the first line, "Loving him is like driving a Maserati down a dead end street", she juxtaposes the luxurious image of a Maserati with the futility of driving down a dead end street.

C: Wow, I can definitely feel the impact of this lyric. The relationship is "fun while it lasts" but ultimately ends in a crash.

A: Exactly. Throughout the song, she uses colors to signify different feelings and meanings throughout the relationship. One lyric says, "Losing him was blue, like I'd never known / Missing him was dark gray all alone". Blue and gray are typically colors associated with sadness, loss, and depression. These lyrics play into the theme of a passionate relationship ending in sadness.

C: oh wow I didn't even realize the wordplay in that lyric. Taylor swift is so good at using wordplay in a not too obvious way.

Alyssa: I just thought of another awesome word play in the song love story. Throughout the song, Swift makes references to William Shakespeare's play "Romeo and Juliet," which is a literary allusion. This adds a layer of sophistication and depth to the storytelling, as listeners are invited to draw parallels between the song's narrative and the classic tale of star-crossed lovers.

C: ooooo good one!!!!

A: Did you get to listen to her newest album yet – the Tortured Poet's Department?

C: No, I haven't yet! What did you think of it?

A: It took a few listens for me to understand and enjoy it, but it's great! You should definitely give it a listen.

C: Are there any word play examples in this new one?

A: Hmmmm... She has a song titled "Fresh Out the Slammer" where she talks about how a long-term relationship has ended and now she is free to call up someone else. "The Slammer" symbolizes her old relationship, which at times felt like a prison, and now she is free to be with someone else.

C: Wow. That sounds super emotional. How does she come up with this stuff?

A: She has a gift. That about wraps up our look into wordplay and lyrics. I hope you enjoyed!