

Choosing a Topic

What story do you want to tell?



This lesson is adapted from

<https://www.npr.org/2018/11/15/662116901/teaching-podcasting-a-curriculum-guide-for-educators#overview>

Overview

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the difference between scripted and Q&A podcasts.
- Familiarize ourselves with a wide range of podcast topics.
- Determine a topic and structure for our podcast.

Key Vocabulary:

Resources

Lesson Slides

<https://www.g2.com/articles/what-is-a-podcast>

Lesson Plan

40 mins.

Warm Up: Gauge student knowledge

5 mins.

1. Recall what you have learned about Podcasts so far. Jot down as many types or genres of Podcasts you can remember.

Brainstorm:

30 mins.

1. Provide the class with a variety of prompts to consider. In small groups (3-4



students), have students pick three of the prompts that they think would be fun to make a podcast about. Students should then come up with an idea for each of the three prompts.

- a. Tell us a story about your school or community: about something that happened there - recently or in the past - that you want your audience to know about.
 - b. What is a moment in history that all students should learn about?
 - c. Show us both sides of a debate about an issue that's important to you.
 - d. What do you want to change about the world? What's a big change that you want to make in the future?
 - e. Explain something that kids understand and grownups don't.
2. Ask students to decide how their podcast will be structured.

For example:

A conversation as a group

An interview with one person

A story with clips of interview and sounds, narrated by a host

3. Go around the room and have each group share their favorite idea with the class. Record their ideas.

As a class, narrow down the ideas to one. Consider using these questions to guide their decision:

What obstacles might come up as we create this podcast?

If this idea involves traveling somewhere far away or interviewing someone famous, it might be difficult.

Does the timeline work?

Can students complete their interviews or record other sounds well before the podcasts are due so that they have time to edit the audio?

Analyze:

10 mins.

Wrap Up:

5 mins.

1. Ask: *What types of sounds do podcasts include?*

Students should understand that podcasts vary greatly — but most include a host and can include sounds from interviews, audio from events, audio from movies or TV, and sounds from the world around them.

2. Ask: *What are some ways that podcasts are structured?*

Students should walk away from this discussion understanding that there isn't one right way to tell a story. Some podcasts use narration from a host or a reporter, others feature a conversation between a group, others might be a one-on-one interview between two people. The structure of a podcast fits its content.

Additional Resources

If your students are still looking for podcast examples, here are some we recommend:

[Here's a guide from YR Media](#) about the best ways to record audio on your phone.

Kind World: [A Different Window](#) (7 mins, 2 sec.)

Hidden Brain: [How Labels Can Affect People's Personalities and Potential](#) (6 mins, 35 sec.)