**Podcasts – The New Medium for Thinking?**

“Knowledge is power”……… *Nelson Mandela*

“Beneath this mask there is an idea, Mr. Creedy, and ideas are bulletproof”…. *V for Vendetta*

There have been many great thoughts expressed on a variety of pertinent topics over the years. Usually they have been found in books, magazines, and other print forms. Unfortunately, due to their medium of choice, many of those powerful ideas have been forgotten or have passed from our social consciousness in favor of new, cooler, hipper means of expressing ideas and authors.

But an idea can never be destroyed. And thanks to the internet and podcasters, they will never disappear. Podcasts have become one of the most popular vehicles for discussing every topic imaginable and presenting ideas for listeners to analyze and think about. Over 42 million people listen to podcasts daily and some have heavily influenced society. The podcast, ***Serial***, for example, was so influential that lawyers were able to appeal the murder conviction of Season 1’s focus, Adnan Syed.

**Assignment:**

1. Choose a topic of significance to you (it must be classroom appropriate) and search out a podcast that explores that topic in some way. You must choose a listening podcast, not a video cast. Once you have listened to your podcast, your focus is to explain why you chose that podcast. The podcast should be mainstream enough to be easily found and reputable enough to be assured of truthful journalism (no fake news or conspiracy theories please).
2. Write a brief but detailed history/explanation of the podcast:
   1. Name of Podcast and its intent/philosophy
   2. Host(s) – biographical info
   3. Topics covered – be detailed and specific. Is the podcast about different topics every episode (general news or pop culture podcasts like This American Life) or do they focus on a topic for a season (Serial) or on a genre (true crime, family issues, etc.)presenters, influence, etc.)
3. Write a well-crafted review from your own perspective as a listener. Pay close attention to the details of the podcast in your review (sound quality, personalities of the hosts, accuracy of information, and all the pertinent aspects you feel encompass the vibe of your chosen podcast.) This review should be about 2 paragraphs in length and use proper writing format.

This assignment has a suggested work time of 2.5- 3 hours; 1.5 hour to find and listen to a podcast and 1- 1.5 hours to write the explanation and review. Upload to Teams when complete.

**Swim Coaches Base Podcast**

Written by Sarthak Nadkarni

I chose this podcast because I was really interested in swimming. I have been swimming ever since I was 3 ½ and I really enjoyed it till today. I have not been listening to any podcasts lately but as soon as I researched Swim Coaches Base, I watched a couple of episodes and this is where I got interested. The episode that I chose to listen to was “If You Can’t Do It Slow, You Can’t Do It Fast”. I chose this episode because I agree with the title. This has helped me improve in swimming a lot like if you cannot do front crawl properly or slowly, there is no way you can do it properly and fast.

“Swim Coaches Base” was hosted by an American Sports journalist Chris Ritter and powered by Ritter Sports performance. This podcast mainly focuses on different swim coaches around the world and how they moved towards success becoming a swim coach. This podcast mainly focuses on different stories of swim coaches in different episodes. In each episode, the host asks questions on how they teach as a swim coach, what made them teach that way, and barriers they have encountered to becoming a swim coach.

American sports journalist Chris Ritter is very respectful, entertaining, and understanding. He is very respectful towards the swim coach. Another reason why I like this host is that he expands the topic gradually. For example, he asks Noelle Singleton how she got interested in swimming, what drove her to become coach, what fascinates her about being a coach, and what obstacles she faced. The host keeps the interview smooth and takes care not to be monotonous like asking repetitive questions. He offers his opinion and reaction ab out the coaches’ answer, and he also simplifies whatever information providing to the audience. The only downside that I am noticing in this podcast is the sound quality. I can hear background sounds on and off through the podcast. He could have chosen a better venue to record the interview. Overall, Chris has successfully created an informative podcast with a very good understanding to the topic while keeping it entertaining.