

## PodCasts

**WebQuest Description:** The basics of podcasts are the basics of any type of communication; be clear and easy to understand and be accurate with your information and analysis of that information.

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Curriculum:** Technology

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## Introduction

A podcast is, simply, an audio story or essay. Sometimes just the act of recording a piece helps add to the writing -- or discover some flaws. Revise and record again!The link below is a great place to start. Select a podcast or two and listen to it. This will give you a good understanding of PODCASTS.

## Tasks

Create a 3-5 MINUTE Podcast about a topic of your choice.1. Start with something that is of interest to you.2. Write a small paragraph about the topic. This will help you get your ideas flowing.3. Then research further to make sure you have accurate information.(This could be library research, information gathered in class throughout the year, or research done online.)4. Use this information to write a script. Two script suggestions would be:a. Write your script as a NARRATIVE. Everyone loves a story and it will make the podcast interesting and entertaining.b. Write your script as a DIALOGUE, a conversation between two people about THEIR understanding of the topic. Sharing with each other on the podcast is also sharing with the audience.FINAL PRODUCT:1. Finished PODCAST SCRIPT2. Uploaded PODCAST that is 3-5 minutes in length.Use the RUBRIC on the EVALUATION PAGE of this Web Quest as you create your script and podcast.

## Process

HOW TO CREATE A PODCAST -- CONTENTWhat is podcasting?Essentially it is something -- an essay, poem, story, speech -- which you record into a digital recorder, and then upload that audio file to the Web. In order to do an audio story, you need to approach it as you would any story or poem or essay.You always need to write a SCRIPT and practice before you try to record your PODCAST.Here is an idea for a podcast that helps you understand how to do it. The idea is The Big Learning Moment This Year:1. Brainstorm. Think of a big learning moment this year in World Geography; it could be an event, an idea, or a part of the world you never knew much about before; it could be something that you remember clearly about something you're passionate about - helping others, how we as humans are impacting the environment. What was it? What is a story that could come out of it? Why was it so memorable? What details do you remember? How do you tell the story? How do you start?2. The Idea. Jot down your story idea. One paragraph or two. Just get down the elements to the story. This is the start of a script.3. First draft. Do some background research. What do you need to finish out the details of the story/idea? Use information you already have obtained in class, or research and find new information to help at to the story. Then write the script.4. Revision. Read it aloud. Any place your tongue trips up, smooth out the words.5. Final read. Read the second version aloud. Like it? Is it your natural voice? Any words sound unwieldy, like something you wouldn't speak? Change them.

Creating a podcast without a microphone or expensive equipment.The very EASIEST way to create a PODCAST is by using VOCAROO. It doesn't have the sound quality of the TECH TOOLS below, but it is free, and easy to use and share. It just depends on what you or your teacher wants from your PODCAST.You can create podcasts using only a computer that has an Internet connection and a telephone by going to ipadio.com, a free service. ipadio.com account. Go to ipadio.com and create a FREE account. (You need a working email address to do this. Use your GOOGLE email for this.) (IMAGE 1) (IMAGE 2)(NOTE:Your school may have this site blocked; have your teacher go to the ITfolks to see if can be unblocked.) Record. With your piece ready, or your thoughts collected, call the TOLL FREE number that is provided by ipadio.com. Follow the prompts and then record your piece. When done, hang up. Download. Return to ipadio.com, sign in and you'll see the most recent "phonecast" and a little button to "Download mp3." Click it. It will download to the folder you have set in your browser preferences, or you can choose a folder. Upload The mp3 file to your GOOGLE DRIVE folder for this quarter. Scroll down and click "save" at the bottom. You did it!OTHER OPTIONS for RECORDINGCreating a Podcast using a microphone and an audio recording program. If you have equipment -- an inexpensive microphone, or the one that came on your computer is fine -- record yourself and save as a mp3 file and upload to your GOOGLE DRIVE folder. The simplest way to create a "podcast" is to read your piece into a microphone or digital recorder or into the built-in microphone on your computer. Details: If your computer doesn't have audio software, Audacity is an easy, free program that can be downloaded by clicking here. (This is to download at home, you can't download software at school) ALL THE COMPUTERS IN MR. BEAVERS' CLASS ALREADY HAS THIS

SOFTWARE ON THEM. &nbsp;Check the desktop.This will allow you to do all sorts of editing to your piece to make sure it sounds just right, if you want. One tricky part is that you also have to download something called a lame.dll file: don't sweat the details, &nbsp;and put it in the Audacity program folder! This file is necessary to export your recording as an mp3; the first time you do it, you'll be asked to locate the lame.dll file which you can do by pointing the program to the lame.dll file you dutifully put in your Audacity folder. (It will never ask you to do this again and you will never have to think about it again!)FREE APPS ON YOUR PHONEiPhones have an app called VOICE MEMOS already built into the phone.&nbsp; This is another option for creating a PODCAST.&nbsp; Record it, then save and upload it to your GOOGLE DRIVE.&nbsp; This WEBSITE&nbsp;will help with using VOICE MEMOS.&nbsp;

## Evaluation

The goal of creating a podcast is to inform. &nbsp;To do that the podcast content and delivery of that content must be easy to follow and understand.The information must be accurate and well supported.Critical analysis should be informed and accurate.&nbsp;Keep these things in mind as well as the rubric below as you create your PODCAST.GOOD LUCK!

Category and Score					Score
Criterion C: Communicating (Organization)	Podcast has an introduction and a clearly structured body of content followed by a brief summary. Extremely well planned to flow smoothly.	Podcast has an introduction, a body of content and a summary. Lacks flow from beginning to end.	Podcast is missing an element, making understanding difficult.	Podcast is not organized and is hard to follow.	25
Criterion A: Knowing & Understanding (Content)	Podcast has a clearly stated purpose and presents examples to support purpose.	Podcast may have a stated purpose, but does not provide enough examples to make thinking clear.	Podcast does not clearly state its purpose and/or provide necessary examples.	Podcast is unfocused; does not have a clear purpose and/or no meaningful examples given.	25
Criterion C: Communicating (Voice)	The speaker(s) reads in a calm voice, enunciation is clear, and the flow of the narration is uninterrupted. The presentation is professional sounding.	The speaker(s) reads in a calm voice, enunciation is mostly clear, and the narration may have pauses or slight interruption.	The speaker reads in a rushed or broken-up style. Some words are difficult to understand; the narration has distracting elements.	The speaker does not clearly enunciate; words are rushed or interrupted with coughing or laughter.	25
Criterion D: Thinking Critically (Analysis)	Student completes a detailed discussion of concepts, issues, models, visual representation and theories. Student synthesizes information to make valid, well-supported arguments.	Student discusses concepts, issues, models, visual representation and theories. Student synthesizes information to make valid arguments.	Student analyses concepts, issues, models, visual representation and theories. Student summarizes information to make arguments.	Student analyses concepts, issues, models, visual representation and theories to a limited extent. Student summarizes information to a limited extent to make arguments.	25
				Total Score	100

## Conclusion

Being a great communicator is a skill that will be useful in all walks of life. &nbsp;Knowing how to gather information and present it in a way that is interesting and beneficial to the listener is essential in almost all lines of work. &nbsp;These 21st Century skills will be invaluable to you as you further your education, and as you go into the workforce.

## Teacher Page

Mr. Beavers worked at JT Moore Middle School&nbsp;through 2013.&nbsp; He joined the faculty of Hillsboro Comprehensive High&nbsp;School in the Fall of 2013 as a member of the Freshman Academy.&nbsp;&nbsp;Mr. Beavers is originally from Florence, Alabama where his family&nbsp;now lives, but grew up in Columbia, Tennessee graduating from Columbia&nbsp;Academy. He has lived in Nashville since 1986.

### Standards

### Credits

Part of the rubric was adapted from a rubric created for "Read-Write-Think" by NCTE.

Information found on the Creating the Podcast was adapted from the "Young Writers Project." Found at <http://youngwritersproject.org/book/export/html/98>

### Other