Project 2 – Creating a PODCAST

*Music Production & Engineering – **Level 2***

Katie Wardrobe
Midnight Music

What is a Podcast? Here's How to Listen to a Podcast

In this assignment you are going to create your own Podcast/Radio Show! The topic can be anything you wish. Sports, Movies, Books, Music, Cars, Bikes, Fashion Show, School Clubs/Sports, Other classes at PHS. I am open to anything you want to do for this. Your Podcast can be in any format of: *CONVERSATIONAL, STORYTELLING, INTERVIEW, ROUNDTABLE, MONOLUGUE*

You can work with someone else for this assignment - No more than 2 people per group

PROJECT DETAILS:

Length: 2:00-3:00 minutes in length.

- You must come up with the script, structure, etc
- You must record your script
- Must have introduction with music
- Must have ending with music
- All music MUST be created by YOU. No pre-made "pop music." Music must be royalty free.

PROJECT STEPS:

1. **Choose a Topic**

1. 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.
2. What is a moment in history that all students should learn about?
3. Show us both sides of a debate about an issue that's important to you.
4. What do you want to change about the world? What's a big change that you want to make in the future?
5. Explain something to us that kids understand and grownups don't.

Or Try Some of These Prompts:

General Classroom

- Class news
- Daily reporter
- Class discussion about a hot topic
- Debates
- News announcements
- Report on a significant event (end of year graduation, school sports day, the school musical, football "finals

Science/Maths/Biology

- Demonstrate an experiment
- Demonstrate how to solve a problem
- Interview "working" scientists/mathematicians
- Problem of the day
- The diet and habitat of an animal
- Life-cycle of a butterfly

History (works for almost any subject)

- On This Day
- This Week in Music (or Art, Sport etc)
- Famous Birthdays
- Role-play historical characters
- Re-enact historical events
- Research an event or celebration and present "findings (ie. Why do we celebrate Australia Day?)

How-to (audio or video)

- School procedures
- How to use a software program
- How to use the library
- Older students could make how-to podcasts for younger students

English/Literature/Arts

- Digital storytelling (if the story is long, it could be made into a serial)
- Word of the day
- Poetry readings
- Book report/review
- Role-play literary characters

Performing Arts

- Perform original compositions
- Arrange a folk tune in a sequencing program and sing the melody
- Create a radio drama (with sound effects and mood music)
- History-based projects

2. Write a Script.

- You will want to write down your script, depending on what your topic is. If you are doing an interview, you will need to write the questions down first.
- You will be submitting a "Podcast Worksheet" that will contain your Podcast questions or outline for your script.
- Think about the following ideas for your script:
  - *What is my story's driving question?*
  - *What is the story <u>not</u> about?*
  - *How will I ensure my story is fair to the people and ideas it represents?*
  - *How will I engage my audience — and hold them?*
  - *What are my dream ingredients?*
  - *What will the audience remember when it's over?*

3. Podcasting / Storytelling Recipe

Ingredients (gather all of your ingredients before you get started!)

- Your podcast topic or story idea
- A script for main topic of your podcast or story
- Intro music - copyright-free or Creative Commons-licensed
- Outro music (good if it's the same as the intro music)
- Musical "bumpers" or "stingers" to go in-between sections of your podcast
- Recording software: Mixcraft, Audacity and a variety of iPhone and Android Apps
- Headphones
- Microphone (optional, but good)

4. Recording / Putting It All Together

1. Record your show introduction
   - Approx. 30 seconds long
   - Work from your script: say who you are, mention the episode number or broadcast date and say what you're going to talk about in the podcast

2. Record your first main segment
   - Tell everyone what the segment is about
   - Expand on your topic
   - Introduce any guests or interviewees

3. Record the next segment (if there is one)
   - Tell everyone what the segment is about
   - Expand on your topic
   - Introduce any guests or interviewees

External Links:

What is A Podcast

Podcast Intros - Examples

How To Write Scripts For Your Podcast

How To Start A Podcast: A Complete Step-By-Step Tutorial

How to record using your phone

4. Add in your intro music
   - Select an appropriate style of music
   - Adhere to copyright guidelines: create your own or use copyright-free or Creative Commons licensed music
   - It really does need to be short! 10-20 seconds (around 4 bars of music) is enough
   - If your software allows, create a fade-out at the end of the music (your next spoken section will overlap the fade-out)

5. Add bumpers or stingers between sections
   - Bumpers or stingers are short transitional pieces of music, which help listeners understand that there will be a change in topic
   - Make them very short!

6. Ending
   - Thank the audience for listening
   - Thank any guests
   - Say your name and the name of your podcast

7. Add in outro music
   - The outro music is usually the same as the intro
   - Keep it short
   - If your software allows, create a fade-out at the end of the music

8. Edit Using Mixcraft
   - This is where you will edit ALL parts of your Podcast. You will definitely need to properly mix all of your audio files.
   - Use effects on all vocals so that they can be heard clearly! Please always check ther sound quality of your recordings to make sure they "work."
   - Mixdown your final project as an MP3.

Tips
- Gather any other materials you will need, before you get started (artwork, images, URLs etc)
- Record each section separately: press Stop at the end of the segment. This makes it easier to redo short parts of the podcast if necessary and you also get a breather between sections.
- Speak clearly and make sure you're neither too close, nor too far from the microphone