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Creating a Podcast Episode

A podcast is a kind of informational radio program broadcast over the Internet. The producers choose a topic they want to discuss in their episode. They research their topic, choose a few key points they wish to include, write a script, and then record their episode, which can then be shared with an audience on the Internet.

1. Choose a research partner, who will also be your co-host.

   PARTNERS: _____ and _____

2. Select a historical topic to research.

   TOPIC: _____

3. Research your topic (use library books, websites, history textbooks, history magazines, newspaper articles, and interviews with historians). Look for several key points you believe would interest an audience.

4. Just like a television program, each podcast has a unique name. Often that name has some relationship with its content. Since your podcast relates to history, you probably want to create a name that has a historical connection.

   Determine a name for your podcast: _____

5. Write a script for a TWO-MINUTE audio podcast. (see **Podcast Planning Sheet**)

   INTRO: A podcast episode begins with an introduction that welcomes the audience, gives the name of the show, gives the names of the hosts, and mentions the topic of the show.

   Examples:

   - Welcome to **History Happens**! We're your hosts, (name) and (name).
   - Bringing the past to life, this is **The Slate** daily podcast for Friday, January 30. We're your hosts (name) and (name).
   - Was Benedict Arnold the traitor history says, or was there another side to his story? Welcome to **The Revolution Revisited.** We're your hosts (name) and (name).

   BODY OF SCRIPT: Now you are ready to take the information you researched and turn it into an interesting script for your podcast.

   Select 2 or 3 **key points of interest** from your research, which you want to talk about. Each of these will become a paragraph (or two) of information you want to present to your audience. Consider:

   - What does the audience need to know to understand your topic?

- In what order should you put the information so that it makes sense to your audience?
- How do you connect each of your key points so that they flow together well?

CONCLUSION: You have presented your information and now you want to neatly conclude your episode. Summarize your presentation in one or two concluding statements.

Examples:

- While the end of the French and Indian War might have seemed the start of good times in the colonies, it actually was the first step on the road to the American Revolution.
- The Boston Massacre would serve to test the courage and convictions of John Adams. Yet he never wavered; he was convinced that doing the right thing was better than doing the popular thing.

6. **RECORDING:** Using the computer, record your podcast.

Be sure to:

- Practice your script with your partner multiple times.
- Speak slowly and clearly. Your audience does not have your script to read as you speak.
- Speak at a normal, conversational volume. If you are too quiet, you cannot be understood.
- Find a proper distance from the microphone to record your voice. If you are too close you may sound "blurry."
- Divide your script into parts. It is easier to go back and re-record one part than to re-record the entire thing.

7. **SAVE** your podcast as your teacher directs.

This lesson was written by Mike Lebsock, 8th-grade teacher, Fresno, CA.

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Podcast Episode Planning Sheet

TOPIC: _____

PRODUCERS: _____

NAME OF THE PODCAST: _____

KEY POINTS

1._____

2._____

3._____

SCRIPT

Greeting/Welcome/Introduction of Topic: _____

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FIRST KEY POINT: _____

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SECOND KEY POINT: _____

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THIRD KEY POINT (if needed):_____

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CONCLUSION: _____

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