

Title: Record or Perform Your Own Podcast

Subject: Language Arts

Grade Level: 3rd – 7th

Time: 30 minutes – 1 hour

Objective:

Students will write and perform their own Podcasts that explain the day's events and news from their lives.

Method:

- Introduce the activity by asking students what the vital components are to an informative and entertaining Podcast. Create a list of these on the board or chart paper.
- Ask students what the function of a Podcast is. What information should be included, and what isn't necessary? You can also refer to Guidelines for a Great Podcast on the next page.
- The Wilderness Classroom tries to keep their Podcasts limited to under three minutes. Ask students if this is too long or too short and what would be an appropriate length of time for their Podcasts.
- Ask students to write an organized script for their Podcast, either in small groups, pairs, or individually. Make sure that students create their script following the parameters and organizational structure that you discussed and outlined before.
- Have students rehearse speaking their script, and make sure that they add their personal style and make it sound interesting.
- Record the Podcast on your computer, tape recorder, or have students perform their script from the back of the classroom (so the class hears them but doesn't see them).

Common Core State Anchor Standards:

Key Ideas and Details

1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
3. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

Craft and Structure

4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.

5. Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

9. Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

10. Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

Guidelines for a Great Podcast

Organization

1. Decide what events are important.
2. Put the events in the order in which they happened.
3. Make sure to discuss why these events are interesting. Were they unusual? Were they funny? Was the outcome positive or negative?
4. Make sure to answer the questions: who, what, when, and where. Were there any other events that led up to this event. If so, this is a series; make sure that listeners understand the series of events.

Writing the Script

1. Make sure that the script is entertaining. Use descriptive language to give the listeners a sense of actually being there. This is called setting the scene.
2. Make sure that there is variation in your sentence construction. No one will enjoy listening to you if all of your sentences are simple sentences.
3. Make sure that the listener knows the order of events. Try using words like: first, second, next, after.
4. Add humor or background information about a subject so that the listeners can learn from and remember information about your Podcast.

Rehearsing Your Podcast

1. Start by reading your Podcast aloud all the way through. Don't worry about tripping over your words. Just push through it. Wilderness Classroom's team members often have to record their Podcasts three to five times before getting them just right and they do this all the time.
2. Time your Podcast. Is it too long or too short – edit it!
3. Remember to speak slowly. It is easier for you to not get flustered and easier for your audience to understand.
4. Read it aloud several times so that you're familiar with it. If you want, read it to a friend and ask them if they could understand you.

Recording Your Podcast

1. Begin recording only after you've practiced your Podcast several times.
2. Make sure that you're recording in a quiet area that is free from distractions
3. Once you hit the record button, take two deep, quiet breaths, otherwise the first few words might get cut off.
4. Record the first two sentences only. Then play them back. Make sure that the recording is clear and loud enough to hear. Adjust the microphone or your speaking level so that it's a clear recording.
5. Speak clearly and SLOWLY!