

Title: Record or Perform Your Own Pod Cast

Subject: Language Arts

Grade Level: 3rd – 7th Grades

Time: 30 minutes – 1 hour

Objective:

Students will write and perform their own Pod Casts 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 Pod Cast. Create a list of these on the board or chart paper.

Ask students what the function of a Pod Cast is. What information should be included, and what isn't necessary? You can also refer to Guidelines for a Great Pod Cast on the next page.

The Wilderness Classroom tries to keep their Pod Casts limited to under three minutes. Ask students if this is too long or too short, and what would be appropriate length of time for their Pod Casts.

Ask students to write an organized script for their Pod Cast, either in small groups, pairs, or individually. Make sure that students create their script following the perimeters 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 Pod Cast on your computer, tape recorder, or have students perform their script from the back of the classroom.

Illinois State Goals and Learning Standards:

1.C.3d Summarize and make generalizations from content and relate them to the purpose of the material.

4.A.2a Demonstrate understanding of the listening process (e.g., sender, receiver, message) by summarizing and paraphrasing spoken messages orally and in writing in formal and informal situations.

4.A.2b Ask and respond to questions related to oral presentations and messages in small and large group settings

4.A.3b Compare a speaker's verbal and nonverbal messages.

Guidelines for a Great Pod Cast

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. Are 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, and 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 Pod Cast.

Rehearsing Your Pod Cast

1. Start by reading your Pod Cast 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 Pod Casts three to five times before getting just right, and they do this all the time.
2. Time your Pod Cast. Is it too long or too short – edit it!
3. Remember to speak slowly. It's 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 Pod Cast

1. Begin recording only after you've practiced your Pod Cast 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!