



Integrating Podcasts WORKBOOK



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Workbook - Integrating Podcasts in the Classroom

Overview:

The following lessons and objectives were covered in this course. Feel free to go back and review some or all of them, if necessary:

1. Use Podcasts in Collaborative Assignments

- Offers some examples of how podcasts can be used in collaborative assignments.
- Explains how to plan lessons with group projects incorporating audio or video podcasts into a variety of subjects.

2. Set Up Podcasts for Absent Students

- Describes some of the ways that podcasts can benefit absent students.
- Explains some types of podcasts that can be made for absent students.

3. Engage Parents with Podcasts

- Explains how to use podcasts to communicate with parents.
- Describes ways that podcasts can be used to share students' work with their parents.
- Offers a few platforms for sharing podcasts with parents.

4. Prepare Substitute Teachers via Podcasts

- Suggests ways that substitute teachers can be given class subject matter information via podcasts.
- Shows how podcasts can be used to demonstrate a class period for a substitute teacher.
- Explains how to use podcasts to give a substitute teacher instructions for a class.

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5. Integrate Podcasts in Elementary Education

- Explains some ways that syndicated podcasts can be incorporated into elementary school lesson plans.
- Offers ideas for creating podcasts for elementary lesson plans.
- Explores helping students learn by creating their own podcasts.

6. Integrate Podcasts in English

- Describes how to use podcasts in secondary-level English classes.
- Gives specific, usable, real-life examples for teachers.

7. Integrate Podcasts in Math

- Explores uses for podcasts and vodcasts in education.
- Views examples of how podcasts and vodcasts can aid struggling students in mathematics.
- Looks at ways of using podcasts or vodcasts even when you are not in the classroom for seamless instruction.

8. Integrate Podcasts in Science

- Describes how to use podcasts in secondary-level science classes.
- Gives specific, usable, real-life examples for teachers.

9. Integrate Podcasts in Social Studies

- Discusses how to use podcasts in secondary-level social studies classes.
- Provides specific, usable, real-life examples for teachers.

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10. Integrate Podcasts in Fine Arts

- Describes how to use podcasts in some types of fine arts classes.
- Gives specific, usable, real-life examples for teachers.

Real-life Examples:

Here are some real-life examples of how the concepts discussed in this course could be used in a classroom, either as a teaching tool or an administrative aid:

1. **Tell Stories with Podcasts**

Have your language arts class practice the art of storytelling. Break your students into groups of three or four, and make up and record a ghost story. Have them edit the stories to include sound effects or music, and then turn the recordings into podcasts for the class Web site. Play a new podcast for the class each week.

2. **Broadcast the School Orchestra**

Make an audio recording of the school orchestra performing their best collaborative symphonies. Convert the recording into a podcast and upload it to the school Web site for the whole school to hear. Make sure to share it with parents too.

3. **Create Video Memories of a Field Trip**

Take your science class on a field trip to a local park. Explore plants, trees, flowers, bugs, and wildlife. Have the students take turns shooting video footage of the things that they see and experience. Turn the footage into a vodcast and load it to the class Web site so that your students remember the trip.

4. **Make an Episodic Podcast of Your History Lectures**

History is a subject that flows like the story of a novel. If a student misses a day of class, it can be like missing a whole chapter of the book. Prevent this problem by recording all of your class lectures in your history class as podcasts, and make them available as daily episodes on the class Web site. Have students use them to make up work if they miss class.

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5. Create a Handout Vodcast

Save all of your math class' handouts as digital images on your computer. Place the images in a media program and convert them into a video slideshow. Upload the slideshow as a video podcast to the class Web site so that the materials can be available for absent students.

6. Podcast a Literary Discussion

Record a class discussion about the outcome of the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Get every student's opinion of the book in the recording. Post the recording as a podcast to the class Web site for absent students to access for make-up work. Share the discussion podcasts with English teachers in other schools.

7. Post an Episodic Podcast for a Math Class

Create a class Web site for your math students. At the start of the school year, inform the parents that the Web site will be updated each week with a new podcast with class information. Make sure they know how and where to access the podcasts. Each week, create a new audio podcast informing parents of super star students, test dates, material covered, and homework assignments.

8. Share Student Speeches

Have your history students write and perform speeches about a British queen of their choice from 1400-1900 AD. Record the speeches as video, and post them as vodcasts to the class Web site. E-mail the students' parents to alert them to view the vodcasts.

9. Podcast Shakespeare Performances

Assign your literature students parts from *Romeo and Juliet* and have them all read the play aloud. Make audio recordings of the performances. Work with your students to add music and sound effects to the performances, and help them and post them as podcasts to the class Web site. Have them share the podcasts with friends and family.

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10. Record a Podcast for your Spanish Class Substitute

Record a podcast for the substitute of your Spanish class. Use the podcast to explain what materials the class has been working on, what they know already, and what they may still need help with. Offer specific assignments that can be worked on in your absence. Try to include some introductory information about you and your students as well.

11. Record an Example Class Period

Create a vodcast with your History students that shows an example class period that can be viewed by any substitute in the event of your absence. Make sure that the vodcast shows how you communicate information to the class, and try to also include some discussion time where you call on students by name.

12. Podcast Instructions for a Substitute Teacher

Record a podcast with a week's worth of instructions for your substitute teacher to use with your English class. Break the podcasts down so that there is one for each day you will be absent. Have instructions about class assignments for diagramming sentences, homework instructions for reading assignments, class assignments for presenting a poem, and a day for class discussion about the book they read.

13. Create a Math Vodcast

Make a vodcast of math equations that include addition, subtraction, and basic multiplication and division. Have the video be a slideshow of images that serve as flashcards, offering problems and helping with answers. Use the vodcast as a visual aid to accompany class practice time with math equations.

14. Create a History Podcast

Have your group of second graders record a podcast that tells the story of Lewis and Clark and Sacajawea. Make the podcast episodic, and have them add a new chapter each week. Have them each play a different character, reading the story with varying voices, and adding sound effects. Help them post the podcast to the school Web site so that it can be shared with other students and parents.

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15. Poetry Podcasts

Work with your fourth graders to write some poetry. Teach them the principles of assonance, dissonance, alliteration, and onomatopoeia. Have them read and record their poetry to make it a podcast. Post the podcasts to the class Web site so that the students can share their work with their parents.

16. Create a Message from the Grave

Break the students into small groups, and assign each group a deceased author. Ask the students to research the author's life and one of his or her works. Then have the students create a podcast in which they describe the respective work as if they are the author speaking from the grave, but don't let them reveal the author's name. Encourage the students to use words the author might use, mimic what the author's voice might sound like, and even add sound effects. Post the podcasts to the school Web site, and assign them as an extra credit contest. Whoever can match the most correct authors to the podcasts wins!

17. Create a Vodcast from Haiku

Assign a different haiku to each student. Ask that they each illustrate the subject matter of the haiku, and then record them reading the haiku aloud. Collect the illustrations and scan each into digital images, and then assemble them with the readings as a slideshow. Convert the slideshow to a vodcast, and post it to the school Web site for parents to see.

18. Teach with Tongue Twisters

To teach students alliteration -- and assonance and consonance -- have them create tongue twisters, and then record the students saying them aloud. Create podcasts of the recordings and post them to a Web site for others to hear.

19. Follow a Stock Market Podcast

Find a podcast of stock quotes, or select specific stocks and make some yourself. Then have the students listen to the podcasts and pick, track, and trade stocks to try to optimize income. You can then have them discuss percent of increase, rate of interest, and then graph their progress.

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20. Use a Vodcast for Conceptual Visualization

Try using a vodcast in combination with some manipulatives and word problems. Take a word problem and make a video of yourself or a student solving the problem using manipulatives and then transferring the concept to paper. Post the podcast to your class Web site so students and parents can refer to it.

21. Research Mathematical Minds

Have students collaborate in small cooperative groups by researching some of the great mathematical minds of history and creating podcast presentations about them. Then allow students to post the podcasts to the school or class Web site to share with other students and parents.

22. Use National Geographic Podcasts

Subscribe to a couple of the National Geographic podcasts that are available online. Your class can listen to "National Geographic World Talk," which includes conversations from the leading scientists around the world. You could also assign students to listen to "National Geographic Minutes" at home. This 60-second report is updated every Friday and tells about science and the environment. Students could write short paragraphs about what they learned and turn it in as homework.

23. Create Group Vodcasts

Separate students into several small groups. Ask each student to make a paper airplane. They should fly their airplanes a set number of times and record the data. They may want to record their trials. When they're done, each group should create a vodcast of their findings. They should collectively write a script that details their scientific questions, hypotheses, procedures, variables, data, and conclusions.

24. Add a Science Podcast to the Class Blog

Add a weekly science podcast or vodcast to your class blog. Students can work in small groups to create serialized podcasts including interesting science facts, updates on technology, interviews with people working in science fields, or news in the science world. Add a comment feature to the blog so that people can leave feedback for your students.

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25. Use a Discovery Podcast

Find podcasts on Discovery.com that apply to what you're teaching, such as the building of the pyramids. Allow students to listen to them in class, and then quiz them on what they learned. For extra credit or as homework, assign a podcast about modern mummies.

26. Create a Political Podcast

Play a CNN podcast of a presidential debate. Allow the entire class to listen, and then separate them into small groups. Ask each group to choose an issue that was discussed and create their own podcast debate. They can link their finished podcasts to a class Web site or blog.

27. Record a Class Podcast

Ask students to write a script depicting a historical event, such as the Boston Tea Party. They should each have a part to play in the depiction. When the script is complete, they should record it as a podcast. They can include sound effects, music, and images they find online or draw themselves. Share the podcast with parents and others at your school.

28. Act Out a Podcast of a Play

Find an audio podcast of a play to use in your drama class, such as *Our Town*. Split your class into groups and have the students choose the parts they'd like to portray. Then play the podcast for each group, and ask them to silently act out the play with only the dialog and sound effects of the podcast as guidance. Create a critiquing rubric including originality, accurateness, blocking, and entertainment value. Ask the students to use the rubric to critique each group's interpretation of the play.

29. Podcast a Museum Trip for Parents

Take your art students to a museum as a field trip. After the field trip, record students impressions of the art they viewed. Ask them to talk about their favorite or least favorite piece of art, what they liked or didn't like about it, and how they, if asked, would recreate the piece's subject matter. Then post the audio recordings as podcasts to the school's Web site, and allow parents to access them.

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30. Create a Vodcast of a Marching Band

From a high vantage point, record a marching band's performance, then convert it to a vodcast. Post the vodcast to the school's Web site and allow visitors to the site to view it. This will provide the site visitors with a dynamic impression of your school's talent and spirit.

Exercises:

If you would like additional practice or review of the concepts covered in this course, try the following exercise(s) at your convenience:

1. Spend some time creating podcasts for your students' parents. Offer important information and examples of student activities. Create a class Web site to post the podcasts to, and be sure to share the access information with parents. Update the podcasts frequently so that there is always new content for the parents to play.
2. Think about the next time you'll be absent for class. Plan for this absence by preparing some podcasts for the substitute teacher. Leave the substitute instructions with a podcast about activities, handouts, and projects. Record a vodcast of your class to give the substitute an example of a class period. Save these podcasts so that they can be used as lesson plans in future school years when there is a chance you might be absent.
3. In doing your lesson plans, search for and bookmark any podcasts or podcast host sites that contain material you can use for your lessons. Then, next time you teach those lessons, incorporate the podcast material and document its success or failure in engaging your students.

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