

Podcasting in Education: What is it and why should I do it?

What is a podcast?

The term podcast is a play on the word *broadcast* combined with the work *iPod* (a popular MP3 player). A podcast is a radio-style talk/music show that is saved as MP3 files, posted to the Internet, and downloaded to be listened to at any time. These files can be stored on a computer or small MP3 players (such as the iPod) that can be carried anywhere. Listeners can choose a multitude of topics in which they are interested in listening.

What makes podcasts so popular?

Convenience and cost! Podcasts can be automatically downloaded to a computer and put on a portable MP3 player so that listeners can listen to a new show anytime, anywhere. Listeners have control of listening to what they want, when they want, and how they want. All this and it is free! Most podcasts are free and the only limit is how much time the listener has to listen.

Who can create podcasts?

Anyone with something to say can create podcasts. It takes minimal equipment such as a microphone, headphones and some recording software. Audacity, a free recording piece of software, allows users to record and edit audio files.

How can podcasting fit into the curriculum?

Some teachers are using podcasting an alternative to student produced newspapers and television shows. It broadens students' audience beyond the walls of their classroom or even their school. It is a powerful publishing platform that addresses different learning styles. Knowing that there is a real-world audience gives students purpose and motivation to create a quality product. Podcasting also requires students to research, plan, write, produce, and edit information for the whole world to hear. Other teachers are having students summarize lessons to reproduce lesson for absent students. There are multiple possibilities for using the podcasting medium.

What is an easy way to get a podcast?

With the right software, an aggregator, you can subscribe to podcasts and have new shows downloaded automatically (and even transferred to your iPod) while you sleep. Sample aggregators are:

- Juice- <http://juicereceiver.sourceforge.net/index.php>
- iTunes- <http://www.apple.com/itunes/>
- Attensa (used with MS Outlook)- <http://www.attensa.com/>

Podcast Directories

Search for podcasts at some of these popular sites:

- ✓ www.podcastalley.com
- ✓ epnweb.org
- ✓ www.podcast.net
- ✓ www.podcastingnews.com
- ✓ www.podcastdirectory.org

Podcasts by Students

- ✓ **Radio WillowWeb-**
<http://www.mpsomaha.org/willow/radio/>
- ✓ **Coulie Kids Podcast-**
<http://www.sdlax.net/longfellow/sc/ck/index.htm>
- ✓ **ColeyCast-**
<http://www.mrcoley.com/coleycast/index.htm>
- ✓ **MabryOnline Podcast-**
<http://mabryonline.org/podcasts/>
- ✓ **Radio Cambridge-**
<http://www.ahisd.net/campus/cambridge/radio/radio.htm>

How to Create a Podcast

1. Plan your podcast
2. Record your podcast
3. Edit your podcast
4. Publish your podcast

Tutorials

- ✓ <http://www.how-to-podcast-tutorial.com>
- ✓ <http://www.podcasting-tools.com/how-to-podcast.htm>
- ✓ <http://www.podcastfreemERICA.com/>