

musicfirst

Podcasting Across the Curriculum

Overview

This publication is intended to provide teachers across K-12 schools with an easy-to follow guide for incorporating podcasting into any curriculum. The curriculum is divided into two main parts: lesson plans and project ideas. In the first part, there are twenty lesson plans that will take any teacher and student from not knowing anything about podcasts and how they work up to digitally distributing podcasts on services like Spotify and iTunes. The lesson plans are divided into five parts: Introduction to Podcasting, Storytelling, Technical Preparation, Recording & Editing, and Distribution. In the second part, there are twenty detailed project ideas that can be adapted for use across the different subject areas taught in schools. Each project idea includes the intended grade level(s), subject area, length of time needed to complete the project, International Society for Technology Education (ISTE) standards, project overview, suggested resources, student prompt and project requirements. There is also a generic grading rubric that can be used for all the projects.

Throughout this publication, you will notice specific recommendations for hardware and software. While there are many suitable solutions available, a handful were selected for the purposes of this publication. For audio hardware, the Focusrite **Vocaster One Studio** has been featured. This product was created by Focusrite specifically for podcasters in an effort to make it easier to record them, and to make the podcasts sound professional. It is an affordable solution for educators. For digital audio production software, **Soundtrap** has been featured. **Soundtrap** is extremely popular among educators for two main reasons: it is available online so that it can be used by students with Chromebooks (as well as any other computing device including phones), and that they feature a podcast template for student creators that makes it very easy for students to get quickly up and running with podcasts. Again, it is possible to use any audio recording device and any digital audio workstation to create podcasts. To include all of them in the lesson plans would be prohibitive. The **Vocaster One Studio** and **Soundtrap** were field tested for every one of the lesson plans and projects contained in this publication, and that is why they are recommended here.

Lastly, as with any curriculum, please feel free to adapt it to suit the specific needs of your curriculum and more importantly, your students. Also, it goes without saying that any publication that features specific technology and software is prone to become obsolete with a few years. Every effort was made to make the lesson plans and project ideas contained herein as timeless as possible. Please There are countless other lesson plans and project ideas when it comes to podcasting. The possibilities are endless. The most important thing is that you provide your students with an opportunity to be creative as well as an opportunity to be assessed in a new way.

Have fun and start podcasting!

Recommended Equipment

Hardware

As discussed above, Focusrite is the recommended hardware manufacturer featured throughout this publication. There are three solutions from Focusrite that can easily be used for podcasting with students.

Vocaster One Studio

<https://focusrite.com/en/usb-audio-interface/vocaster/vocaster-one>

The **Vocaster One Studio** provides studio sound with the included professional quality mic. Users can hear their show in perfect detail with closed-back studio headphones. Set levels, enhance your sound with one click, and stand out with **Vocaster One Studio** in seconds. Create great sounding podcasts more easily than ever with Auto Gain, Enhance, the Easy Start tool and all the tools you need to get recording straight away.

vocaster one



Vocaster Two Studio

<https://focusrite.com/en/usb-audio-interface/vocaster/vocaster-two>

A full recording package with a two-input audio interface, a Focusrite dynamic mic, mic cable, and sound-isolating headphones, the Focusrite **Vocaster Two Studio** lets users launch their solo or two-person podcast in moments and easily take the quality of your content to a higher level. The ultraportable Vocaster Two podcast interface turns your computer or USB Type-C iPad into a potent and intuitive content-creation station, with gob: of automatic gain for any kind of microphone, onboard sound enhancements a button-push away, and a smart selection of podcast-centric software. With the option to tap remote guests, infuse music and other audio clips, and even feed the mix to a camera, the Vocaster Two Studio is a well-rounded podcasting solution that remains simple.

vocaster two



Scarlett 2i2 Studio

<https://focusrite.com/en/usb-audio-interface/scarlett/scarlett-2i2-studio>

Sitting on the desks of a huge global community of musicians, producers and podcasters, the **Scarlett 2i2 Studio** has already helped make more recordings than any other interface in history. Featuring a mic, headphones and all the cables, Scarlett 2i2 Studio is everything you need to create studio-quality recordings at home.



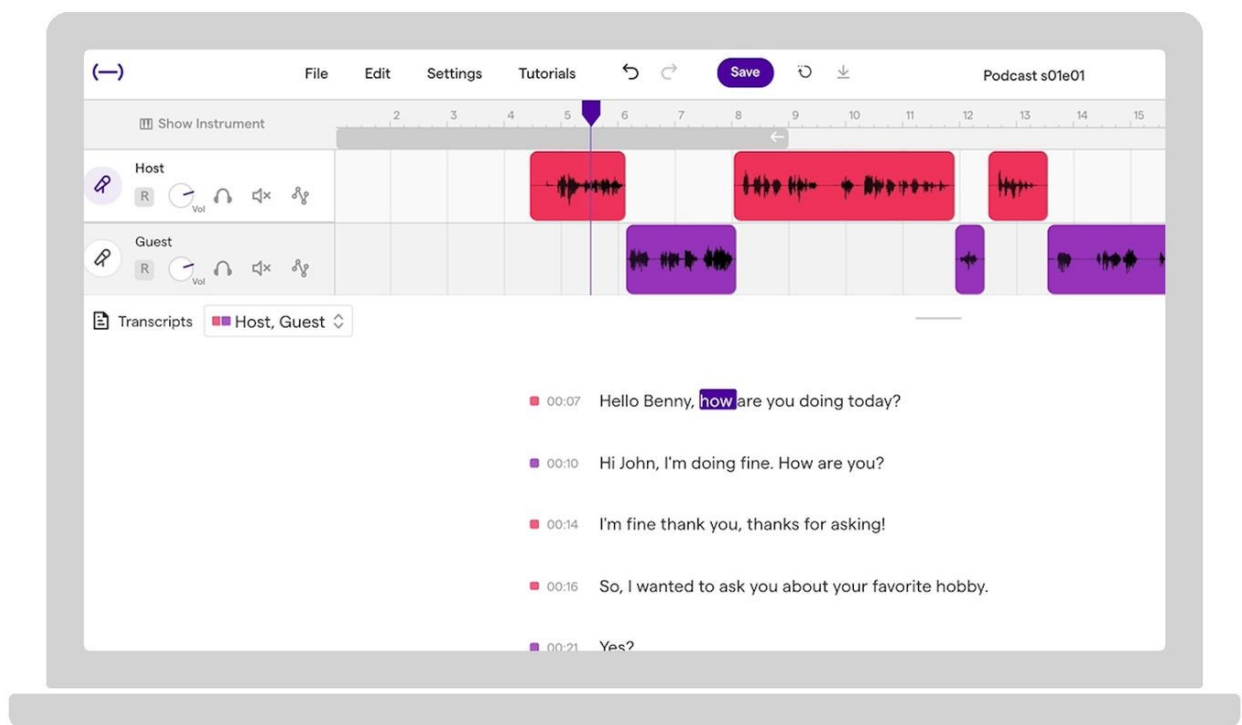
Software

Soundtrap

<https://www.soundtrap.com/edu/>

Because of the wide variety of teaching situations and student access to technology, it is strongly recommended to use Soundtrap as the digital audio production software to produce student-created podcasts. As discussed above, there are numerous reasons to use Soundtrap with your students, including the fact that it is available on any internet-capable device (including phones and Chromebooks) and that it comes with a podcasting template option ready for students to use. Soundtrap also includes an incredible transcription created specifically for podcasting that automatically converts recorded dialogue into editable text.

As noted above, any software capable of recording and editing audio can be used. Most professional software requires it to be installed on a local computer hard drive, making it problematic for students to access it outside of the classroom.



Copyright Considerations

One quick word about podcasting and copyright - podcasting poses some questions about copyright law and fair use. The thing to keep in mind with regard to fair use is that the intention of copyright law is to avoid copying. Even though you may think it is an educational use, and therefore a fair use, to include copyright protected music within a podcast, if it is made available to the public it is no longer fair use. Whether or not you are using only 30 seconds of the piece (or less than 10%), once you make available in a format where other users can copy it you are violating copyright law. The students can include short snippets of the actual audio track within their podcasts. This is most certainly covered by "Fair Use" with regard to copyright law. Just don't have them include the entire track.

A Final Word to the Wise

Whether you are new to podcasting or you've been doing it for some time, my suggestion is to jump right in and start podcasting with your students today. They will enjoy the process and should enjoy having their work available to the public on sites that they frequently use themselves. Be sure to get the OK from your administration and the parents before distributing podcasts through sites like Soundcloud. Some school districts might be uneasy about sharing student work online. A best practice is to not have the students ever share their names in the podcast. Student privacy and safety is always paramount - so be sure to take this part of the podcasting process very seriously.

Podcasting Across the Curriculum

PART I INTRODUCTION TO PODCASTS

- Lesson 1 What is Podcasting?
- Lesson 2 Old Time Radio/Fireside chats - History
- Lesson 3 How is creating a podcast different than making a YouTube/TikTok/Instagram video?
- Lesson 4 Listen to podcasts & review

PART II STORYTELLING

- Lesson 5 Choosing a topic – creating an outline
- Lesson 6 Writing your script

PART III TECHNICAL PREPARATION

- Lesson 7 Equipment for Podcasting
- Lesson 8 Setting up your optimal recording environment
- Lesson 9 How to Record Your Voice
- Lesson 10 Build Your Own Pop Filter
- Lesson 11 How to record Sound Effects/Foley

PART IV RECORDING & EDITING

- Lesson 12 Composing music for your podcast
- Lesson 13 Interviewing strategies
- Lesson 14 Making Remote Recordings
- Lesson 15 Recording your podcast
- Lesson 16 Editing your podcast
- Lesson 17 Using the transcription feature

PART V DISTRIBUTION

- Lesson 18 Getting Your Podcast Ready for Online Distribution
- Lesson 19 Distribution Platforms – SoundCloud, iTunes, Stitcher, Spotify
- Lesson 20 Promoting your podcast

Podcasting Across the Curriculum

Projects with Lesson Plans

This Week in Popular Music History
This Week in History
Back to School Night
What This Song Means to Me
Student Art Show Audio Guide
Concert Program Notes
Study Guides
Spooky Stories
Weekly Sports Update
Black History Connections
A Very Presidential Podcast
Mindful Minutes
Did You Know? Science Podcast
Learn a Language
Program Recruitment
Video Game Reviews
Around the World in 80 Podcasts
The Time Machine: Family Stories of Yesteryear
Current Events: Weekly Roundup
Our Town, Our School

Bonus Projects with abbreviated Lesson Plans

Discovering Latinx & Hispanic Composers & Musicians
Fascinating Fibonacci
My Favorite Dinosaur
Pi Day Podcast
Women in History
Commercial Jingles for Podcast
Daily/Weekly School Announcements Podcasts
Poets Among Us Podcast
Problem Solving Podcast
Earth Day Podcast