



Lesson Plan for Podcasts: The Week in Review

Outcomes

After completing this project, students will be able to:

- Analyze and select news events from the past week
- Write and edit a short summary of an online news article for a classroom podcast
- Use a news aggregator

Materials & Technology

- [Audacity](#)
- [Bloglines](#)
- A weblog or web host to host the podcast ([21Publish.com](#))

Preparation & Technical Skills

Before beginning this project, teachers should open a classroom Bloglines account. This assignment should be done by small groups that rotate throughout the entire year. At the beginning of each week, each member of the group is assigned one of four entries to write and read for the podcast:

- *Word of the Week* - Student chooses a word from the Dictionary.com Word of the Day subscription, reads the definition, and uses it in a sentence.
- *Quote of the Week* - Student chooses a quote from the BrainyQuote.com's Quote of the Day.
- *Sports story of the Week* - Just for fun. One student gets to do a story on a sports story from ESPN.com.
- *News story of the Week* - Student chooses a story from several feeds: USA Today.com, Google News, Yahoo News, and local news from the Cincinnati Enquirer.

At the end of the week, students' summaries are recorded using Audacity. Each summary is kept to a maximum of 20 - 30 seconds so that when exported as an mp3 file, the entire podcast is smaller than 2 mb. After the mp3 is created, the file is then uploaded to the class blog.

Evaluation Suggestions

Assess how well students can summarize the articles. Click here for the [rubric](#) .

Student Examples

Here is the first ever [Room 201 Podcast](#) .