

## Episode 1

Welcome to Podcasting in the Classroom! This is my lesson about Podcasts and using them in today's classroom. Before we go any further, let's revisit what a Podcast is. Simply put, a Podcast is a digital recording that can be downloaded and listened to on a variety of devices.

For instance, let's say that you have a new found interest in the hottest gadget available, but before you go out and purchase it, you want to do some research. Well, with your busy schedule, you don't have time to scan the internet and read about the reviews so, instead, you find a podcast and download it to your MP3 player. Later that evening, you begin listening to it on your evening run. That's right; you are researching while you run!

In a nutshell, that is how a Podcast works. You record information that you want to share or you simply find the information you are interested in and download it to your computer, your iPod or MP3 player, or even your Smartphone. Then, when the time is convenient for you, you can listen to it. One of the nice features of Podcasts is that you can subscribe to them, much like you would a magazine. That way, when the creator adds a new episode to their library, it is automatically downloaded to your device and waiting for you to listen at your convenience!

So, now that you are caught up with the basics of Podcasting, let's look at how can we use them in today's classroom. Today's classroom looks very different from those even just a few years ago. There is so much technology and media available for students that it is often difficult for us as educators to keep up! But we live in an age where we must find a place for them at school. Something as simple as Podcasting has already taken learning to a whole new level. Now students and teachers can stay up-to-date with all of the new information available at a hand's reach.

As a teacher, have you ever cringed knowing that you would be out of the classroom for a day? This used to mean that your students would get nothing accomplished and the substitute would be simply babysitting for the day. With Podcasting, you can create the lesson before you are gone and have the students

continue learning as if you were in the room with them. This way, when you return, you know exactly where to pick up! No more wasted days!

These are just a couple of ways that you can use Podcasting in your classroom. In the next four episodes, you will learn how you can utilize Podcasts even when you are in the classroom! These episodes will cover possible uses such as pre-assessments, re-teachings, or even post-assessments. Textbooks are becoming a thing of the past; Podcasts are just one way that you can take your classroom to the future! Let's see what Podcasting can do for you!

## Episode 2

Welcome back to Podcasting in the Classroom! In this Episode, you will learn about the value of pre-assessments and how you can incorporate the use of Podcasting.

As teachers, we know that it is important when comes to maximizing time in the classroom. Pre-assessments also known as diagnostics can provide us with a lot of valuable information and save us a huge amount of time. Before we start a new unit, it is helpful to know what our students already know and what they don't know about our topic. We live in an age where assessments are a key component to any classroom. Podcasting can offer us a new avenue to explore as we check for student knowledge.

Pre-assessments done in this manner can be done in multiple ways. I am going to provide you with two examples, since many of you are just beginning to explore Podcasting.

The first way to utilize Podcasting as a pre-assessment is by selecting one of the many available Podcasts on the internet and using it as a basis to see what your students know. To do this, I would complete the pre-assessment in three steps. First, I would recommend giving your students an anticipation guide or a simple True or False questionnaire about your topic. With either of these, you do not have to make the questions long, rather, focus on just one or two objectives. Think about keeping the questions between 5 and 10. Next, provide your students with a link to a Podcast covering your topic. Have them listen to the Podcast and check their responses as they go. Lastly, your students should correct any errors they have on their worksheet, but they must show you where they were wrong. By having them self correct, you are holding them accountable for the information they need to know.

The second way you can utilize Podcasting as a pre-assessment is by allowing the students to create their own Podcast sharing the information they know about your topic. Have them post their Podcasts on your class site and share them with their classmates. Have the students read and comment on their classmates work.

In both these instances, you are leveling the playing field by allowing all of your students to begin the unit knowing the same information through their discussions.

These are just two ways to use Podcasting for a pre-assessment. There are so many other ways to do this. Find one that is appropriate for your grade level and content area and go with it!

So, how does this maximize your class time? With Podcasts being a recording, students can complete the pre-assessment before coming to class. Giving the assessment several days or a week in advance, would give you enough time to evaluate where all of your students are when it comes to this topic.

In the next episode, you will learn how you can use Podcasts in your lessons. And how these Podcasts can help you differentiate in your content and amongst your learners.

## Episode 3

Welcome back to Podcasting in the Classroom! In this episode, you will learn how to use the information you gathered in your pre-assessments and help gear students towards a lesson that is at their pace.

In the last episode, I shared two forms of pre-assessments that you can do while using Podcasts. So, what do you do once you reach your findings? Most often, the results of a pre-assessment leave you wondering how you are going to reach every student. The answer is differentiated instruction! Wikipedia defines differentiated instruction or differentiated learning as providing students with different avenues to acquiring content; to processing, constructing, or making sense of ideas; and to developing teaching materials so that all students within a classroom can learn effectively, regardless of differences in ability. So, how can Podcasting help at this point in the learning process?

Let's break this down into three sections:

1. The lesson itself,
2. Re-teaching, and
3. Enrichment

First, the lesson you prepare can be recorded in advance or you can even record it as you teach it to your students. You may choose to incorporate other Podcasts into your lesson or you may not use one at all. Basically, this portion of your class will be much like a normal day.

Secondly, you may find that after your initial lesson, some students were unable to grasp the concept at the pace that it was delivered. By having a recording of the lesson, you offer a simple way to incorporate re-teaching. Your students can listen to the Podcast again as they try to understand the topic. Another great thing about having a recording handy is that students can re-visit the recording for upcoming quizzes or tests and unlike their notes; you know that the information is correct!

Lastly, for students who were able to master the topic the first time around, you can utilize Podcasts to extend their learning, while others are still trying to get it. Here is an opportunity for them to research other Podcasts and compare what others have to say. Provide them Podcasts from experts who can take the topic to another level. You may even choose to cross media and have them look at Vodcasts and other forms of video, but we will save that for another Module.

There are so many ways that you can incorporate Podcasting into your lesson. Each lesson will present itself with different opportunities and I'm sure that each year's students will have you learning about new ways to use this form of technology.

In the next episode, you will learn about using Podcasts for post-assessments. And how by creating their own Podcasts, your students are able to show what they know.

## Episode 4

Welcome back to Podcasting in the Classroom! In this episode, I will share how Podcasting can be used as a post-assessment and how students can create their own Podcasts to show what they know about a classroom topic.

Well, you are at that moment in your unit where you wonder, “Did I give my students everything they need to know this topic?” and “How am I going to find out if they really know it?” It is time for the post-assessment. Just as in the pre-assessment and the lesson itself, there are many ways that you can accomplish this. Obviously, there is the simple paper and pencil test. But what does this show us? That your students are able to regurgitate information? We spent time taking their learning to the next level; shouldn’t their assessment do the same? Of course it should. So, how can you utilize Podcasts to show this?

1. Have the students create a Podcast that compares the results of their pre-assessment to what they have learned during the unit. This may sound easy at first, but be sure to check out Module 4 in the Professional Development Opportunities section of my website, creating a Podcast is not as easy as it sounds.
2. Just as you may have done in the enrichment section of the unit, have students research other Podcasts; have them compare and contrast the information they find to that of the unit.
3. In a Podcast, have students state what they have learned and then have them research facts on-line to prove that what they learned was in fact what they need to know.
4. As an added assessment, have students share their Podcasts with each other. Let them be the evaluators.

One option you do have is that you can have quizzes throughout the lesson and have each quiz be cumulative; this would bring the students to the final test where they will wrap up their unit and in a sense, have a portfolio to show what they learned.

These ideas can only be offered as suggestions. There is so much available in this digital and media rich world, that you can really have your students doing great things to show what they know.

It is my hopes, that through this simple Podcast, you are able to incorporate something new to help your students learn how to communicate in today's world. To conclude this Podcast, I am incorporating one more episode to share some ideas of how Podcasting can be used in the core curriculum.

## Episode 5

Welcome back to the final episode of Podcasting in the Classroom! Throughout this Podcast, I hope you have learned something new about Podcasting and how you can incorporate them into different aspects of your everyday lessons. In this episode I am going to share several ideas for using Podcasts in the core curriculum.

To keep this simple, I am going to list ways that Podcasting can be used. I will try to add links to my website that will allow you to look further into the use of the Podcast in your content area.

Let's start with English classes. This will also include reading and writing.

- Share novel information in the form of a Book Review
- Practice interviewing skills
- Evaluate speeches for grammar
- Vocabulary practice
- Read written reports to aid with editing

For Math classes:

- Work on steps of solving a word problem
- Share the steps to solving an equation
- Learn about real world examples of math and how it is used
- To review factorization

In Social Studies classes:

- Hear words, songs, etc. from different time periods
- Take a virtual field trip and learn about new countries
- Listen to readings of historic sources such as the Declaration of Independence

And finally, Science classes:

- Listen to scientific information and published articles by current scientists

- Listen to NASA as they work in the space field
- Following directions in a science lab

I know this list does not even begin to break the surface of Podcasting in the classroom, but I hope you can use it as a starting point. You will be able to incorporate Podcasts into your classroom for many things. Try them in different facets to keep your students on their toes and engaged in their learning!

Thank you for taking time to listen to my Podcast! I hope that you learned something new that you can take and incorporate into your own classroom! Keep in mind; you can make anything your own. Nothing with technology and its uses is set in stone. Be creative, take chances, and watch as your lessons catch your students' attention!