

TECH TIMES

Technology News You Can Use

OCTOBER 24, 2011



Good Monday everyone! This week I wanted to share with you some information about podcasting. Podcasting is an excellent way to motivate students while covering the standards. Podcasting is also a convenient and easy way to integrate technology into your curriculum.

PODCASTING

Podcasting is a new method of communication allowing anyone to create audio and video files and post them to the Internet for others to download and watch or listen to at any time. These audio or video files can be downloaded to a personal computer or handheld device such as an iPod.

This article gives teachers an overview on starting a student-produced Podcast at their school and in the classroom. The Podcast to be created can take on multiple themes. Some teachers are using Podcasting an alternative to student produced newspapers and television shows. Others are using the medium to reproduce lessons for absent students or for students to present oral presentations of reports and assignments. There are multiple possibilities for using the Podcasting medium. This article focuses on producing a student-created Podcast as medium for student expression, news, interviews, and related themes specific to the student's own school.

TECHNOLOGY SKILLS

Students learn the technical skills needed to record a high-quality podcast.

Students brainstorm, and design the themes and content of their Podcast with teacher guidance.

Students complete preproduction, production, and post-production of their Podcast.

Students ultimately learn project management skills, Podcasting technical skills, and actively use the Podcast as a medium for positive student expression.

TIME ALLOCATION

Podcasts usually take 3-4 weeks to produce, so teachers should aim to make one Podcast a month to start. Once students are more familiar with the process, the number of Podcasts produced can increase as desired. To make the most efficient use of time teachers should follow the below process steps for creating the Podcast:

- Review computer skills and software needed for production process.
- Define the purpose of the Podcast.
- Organize students to participate.
- Brainstorm potential topics for the Podcast with students (Weekly classroom news broadcast, document a field trip, share book reviews, etc.)
- Divide up topics to pairs of students for content or script production.



NEXT WEEK: Creating a Podcast

ASK TECH COACH DAVE

Dear Tech Coach Dave,
Can I connect my iPad to the projector in my classroom?
Sincerely, Disconnected

Dear Disconnected,
The short answer is "yes". Purchase a VGA adapter from the Apple store and connect.