

Mini-Idaho 5th Grade Lesson Plan: Incorporating Podcasts into Journalism

Lesson Title: Exploring Journalism through Podcasts

Duration: 1 Week (5 Class Periods)

Idaho Writing Standards Addressed:

- **W.5.2:** Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
- **W.5.4:** Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- **W.5.5:** With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
- **SL.5.1:** Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 5 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.
- **SL.5.5:** Include multimedia components (e.g., graphics, sound) and visual displays in presentations when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or themes.

Objectives:

- Students will understand the basics of journalism and podcasting.
- Students will research, write, and record a short podcast episode.
- Students will demonstrate their understanding of journalistic writing and multimedia presentation.

Materials:

- Internet access and computers/tablets
- Microphones and audio recording devices/software
- Examples of kid-friendly podcasts (e.g., "Brains On!" or "But Why: A Podcast for Curious Kids")
- Writing materials (notebooks, pens, or digital word processors)

Day-by-Day Plan:

Day 1: Introduction to Journalism and Podcasts

- **Activity:**
 - Discuss what journalism is and the role of journalists.
 - Introduce podcasts as a modern form of journalism and media.
 - Play a short kid-friendly podcast episode.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 - What did you learn from the podcast episode?
 - How is a podcast similar to and different from a news article?

Day 2: Research and Topic Selection

- **Activity:**
 - Students brainstorm topics they are interested in.
 - Students conduct research on their chosen topic using books, articles, and online resources.
- **Guided Practice:**
 - Teach students how to take notes and organize information.
 - Discuss reliable sources and how to identify them.

Day 3: Writing the Podcast Script

- **Activity:**
 - Students draft a script for their podcast episode.
 - Teach the structure of a podcast script: introduction, main content, conclusion.
- **Guided Practice:**
 - Peer review and teacher feedback sessions to revise and refine scripts.

Day 4: Recording the Podcast

- **Activity:**
 - Students practice reading their scripts out loud.
 - Set up recording devices and guide students through the recording process.
 - Introduce basic editing tools to clean up their recordings.
- **Group Work:**
 - Students can work in pairs or small groups to help each other with recording and editing.

Day 5: Presentation and Assessment

- **Activity:**
 - Students present their podcasts to the class.
 - Provide a rubric for peer and self-assessment focusing on content accuracy, script structure, clarity of recording, and overall presentation.
- **Discussion:**
 - Reflect on what was learned through the process of creating a podcast.
 - Discuss challenges faced and how they were overcome.

Assessment:

- **Formative Assessments:**
 - Participation in discussions and brainstorming sessions.
 - Quality of research and note-taking.
 - Peer review feedback and revisions.
- **Summative Assessment:**

- Final podcast script and recording evaluated using a rubric that includes criteria for content accuracy, script structure, clarity of recording, and overall presentation.

Rubric:

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Satisfactory (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Content Accuracy	Information is accurate and well-researched.	Mostly accurate information with minor errors.	Some accurate information but several errors.	Information is largely inaccurate or poorly researched.
Script Structure	Clear and engaging structure with a strong introduction, body, and conclusion.	Clear structure but could be more engaging.	Basic structure with some coherence issues.	Poor structure with little coherence.
Recording Clarity	Clear and easy to understand with good audio quality.	Mostly clear with minor audio issues.	Some clarity issues that affect understanding.	Difficult to understand due to poor audio quality.
Presentation	Engaging and confident delivery.	Generally engaging with moments of confidence.	Somewhat engaging but lacks confidence.	Not engaging and lacks confidence.