Creating an Original Podcast
HMS Multimedia Arts

Project Overview
In this unit, you have learned a little about audio recording, related equipment and techniques, and about the history and creation of “podcasts”. The final outcome of this unit will be a podcast incorporating the techniques you have learned.

Project Objectives
- To demonstrate appropriate use of Audacity software, laptop, and USB microphone
- To identify and use basic audio recording terminology
- To identify, compose, and import appropriate music and sound effects
- To write, record, export, and publish an original podcast, following the provided scoring guidelines

Selection of Topic
The formal assessment for this unit is the creation of a podcast based on a topic you will select. This podcast can be about almost anything. However, by the end of your recording, the listener should have learned something. Also, keep in mind that your recording must be school-appropriate and should not be negatives towards any individual or group.

Research for Information Required to Complete Podcast
Once you have selected a topic, you will research information on this topic so you can adequately cover this topic in your podcast. Information should be centered around what you wish your listener to get out of your podcast. Ten minutes of “random rambling” will often lose the listener, and they will be less likely to return for another episode. You should make notes that will help you select what to include in your podcast, as well as keeping track of the sites you use. Complete the research outline as you work.

Compiling Information into Final Presentable Format
Using the information you gathered during your research, you will complete the “Podcast Storyboard” worksheet. This worksheet will be your guide to getting your podcast ready for recording. Narrow down your information and decide what you want to include. Include an introduction, an overview, and a closing. Use this sheet to help you divide up speaking parts and select where you want to place audio clips for your podcast. You can either find and use royalty-free music or create your own loops using JamStudio.com. Make sure your sentences are complete and your wording is appropriate for the audience you are trying to reach with your podcast.

Selecting Music and Sound Effects
One element that can add interest to a podcast is music. Use the sites we have referenced in class to select at least ONE musical element. It can be any style and can be placed anywhere in your podcast. However, make sure that it fits appropriately where used, and isn’t just added for the sake of having music. Also, keep copyright laws in consideration.

Recording, Editing, and Posting
Once you have your script and musical elements, it’s time to record using Audacity. When you record your podcast, it is important to remember that you want to be as accurate and professional as possible. Though audio software will allow you to remove/edit certain types of mistakes, the cleaner your initial recording is, the better your final product will be.

Your final podcast recording must include the following components:
- At least TWO easily-identifiable effects that do not distract from the overall podcast quality
- At least ONE musical component (either introduction, background, or exit)
- At least ONE sound effect
- id3 tags, as defined on the id3 tag graphic
The length of your final recording is based on group size and should be as follows:
- Individuals: 2-3 minutes in length
- Groups of Two: 3-4 minutes in length
- Groups of Three: 4-5 minutes in length

When finished, export your podcast and upload it using the link on the class Moodle page.

Assessment and Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL – 50 points</th>
<th>ADVANCED 9-10</th>
<th>PROFICIENT 7-8</th>
<th>BASIC 5-6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Podcast Storyboard/Script 10 points</td>
<td>All elements are completed, script matches recording and is sensibly written</td>
<td>Most elements are completed, minor variance in script, little to no issues with written text</td>
<td>Multiple elements are missing or inaccurate, script does not correspond with recording, poor writing quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effects 10 points</td>
<td>At least two effects are applied and are easily recognizable</td>
<td>Two effects are applied but difficult to recognize</td>
<td>Effects are not appropriately applied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music and Sound Effects 10 points</td>
<td>At least one music clip and one sound effect are included and appropriately placed or balanced</td>
<td>Music clip and sound effect are included, but not appropriately placed or balanced</td>
<td>At least one element is missing and/or there is little evidence of planning in using the music clip or effect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of Recording/Voice 10 points</td>
<td>High-quality digital recording using appropriate volume, vocal inflection, and clarity of speech. Edits are sensible and appropriate.</td>
<td>Minimal issues with quality of recording concerning elements listed to the left.</td>
<td>Multiple issues with quality of recording concerning elements listed to the left.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content of Podcast 10 points</td>
<td>Content is detailed, thorough, and well-researched. Information included is tightly connected to the podcast topic.</td>
<td>Content is appropriate, but could provide more detail and connect tighter to the podcast topic.</td>
<td>Content is lacking connection to the podcast topic.</td>
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Suggested Timeline

- **Day One**
  - Read through scoring guide to get an overview of the project and it's requirements
  - Select working groups (if desired) and select a topic for your podcast
  - Research information on topic and begin writing script
  - Begin completion of paperwork
- **Day Two**
  - Continue research
  - Finalize first draft of scripts
  - Practice reading script and edit as necessary
  - Begin recording script and/or finding background music or sound effects
- **Day Three**
  - Finalize and record script
  - Finalize choice for background music and sound effects
  - Review initial recording and identify areas that need changed (if necessary)
- **Day Four**
  - Apply effects to recording and adjust volume where necessary
  - Final review of audio recording, and export final .mp3 file
  - Upload final .mp3 file along with the script and research outline