

Podcasting Our America: Written and Spoken Words¹

Assignment Overview

In this unit, you will spend time listening to podcasts from our class podcast library, considering connections between your communities, identities, culture, and society. You will draw from these podcasts, your own personal experiences, and writerly practices to write a 750-1,000 word essay about a specified topic, and create a podcast with a group revolving around that topic. This may be a historical, social, cultural, and/or political event you have lived through or a personal life experience that played a significant role in shaping the person you are today. Your essay must include at least 3 podcasts, and these sources must be cited in text and in a Works Cited page at the end of your paper. Papers must also be accompanied by a group video or audio recording of your podcast of a minimum of 5 minutes covering your topic of choice. There are **5 C/NC assignments** associated with this project (Peer-Review Draft, Author's Note, Peer-Responses, Project Preface, Final Project).

Objectives

This assignment will ask students to engage course learning outcomes related to rhetoric situation (SLO 2), writing process (SLO 3), source integration (SLO 4), and style (SLO 5) and demonstrate understanding of rhetorical topics connected to narrative writing including close reading, synthesizing ideas and language, and style and expression.

Prompt Ideas

You may use the following questions to help inspire ideas for this project:

1. Where is your community? What's your community history and what significance does it have to you?
2. How do you identify yourself? What influenced your identity? Who or what has/had an influence on your identity?
3. How has culture influenced who you are? Why is culture valuable to your identity? What significance does culture have on your community?
4. What current or past social issues need immediate attention? Why should your community be aware of this issue? What is at stake with this issue or dilemma?

Final Submission Checklist

Before submitting your final Podcasting Our America, please review the following checklist to make sure your submission meets the minimum requirements. Projects missing any of these criteria will be deducted points:

- The final word count for your essay must be between 750-1000 words in length.
- Your final submission must include at least 3 podcasts.

¹ This assignment was developed for use in the First-Year Writing Program at California State University, Los Angeles and is aligned with the Transparency in Learning and Teaching (TILT) Framework. See First-Year Writing Program, Department of English, California State University, Los Angeles, <https://www.calstatela.edu/academic/english/composition-program> and Transparency in Learning and Teaching, Center for Effective Teaching and Learning, California State University, Los Angeles, <https://www.calstatela.edu/cetl/transparency-learning-and-teaching-tilt>.

- The podcasts you reference in your essay should be incorporated, cited, and listed in a Works Cited page according to [MLA or APA guidelines](#).
- Along with your essay, you must upload a group podcast audio or video recording to the Canvas assignments folder. In this recording, you will deliver your podcast on one of the topics mentioned above. Your podcast must be at least **5 minutes** long.
- Your essay and group podcast must be original compositions.
- Your project must demonstrate clear and meaningful engagement with the assignment, that is, it should respond to the prompt and show that you have put effort into your work.

Submission Instructions

Submit your final Poetry Personal History and Project Preface to the Canvas assignments folders by **11:59 PM on Thursday, April 7, 2022**.

- Go to our Canvas course home page.
- Click on the Assignments link in the menu on the left-hand side of the page.
- Open the “Podcasting Our America” assignment.
- Click Add Submission and upload your essay in a Word document, and then add your audio file in MP3 format.
- Click Save Changes to submit.
- Open the “POA Project Preface” assignment and repeat the above steps to upload your Project Preface as a Word document.

Evaluation

Throughout the process of drafting your Podcasting Our America Project, you will receive detailed feedback with questions, comments, and recommendations for future drafts.

Assignments that are submitted on time and that meet the stated minimum requirements will be marked as **Complete**. Missing assignments and submissions that do not meet the stated minimum requirements will be marked as **Incomplete**. As per the course grading contract, ten or more Incomplete assignments will result in an NC for the course.

FREE Audio and Recording Resources:

<https://guides.lib.udel.edu/audio/plan>

<https://freemusicarchive.org>

<https://www.audacityteam.org>

https://capture.udel.edu/media/Audacity+Tutorial/1_cr5kbo18

<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/tools-for-podcasting>

<https://www.apple.com/mac/garageband/>