

Literature Circle Podcasts

Overview

For this book talk presentation, you will be creating a group podcast. The goal is for your group to work together to create an attention grabbing and interesting script that will encourage your classmates to want to read your book. Once your group has finished writing the script, you will assign parts, record the narration, and then mix a podcast with music and sound effects. Finally, you will convert this sound file into an MP3, where it will be stored online to listen to from our class webpage.

Key Objective: Differentiating features and use of language in different mediums

For your last project, we focused on images, written word, and music to communicate a mood and a message. This podcast will focus on spoken language, dramatic reading, sound effects, and carefully arranged music.

Group Roles

Each group member must contribute to each of the following roles during each class period. In other words:

Everyone speaks. Everyone writes. Everyone operates Aviary--everyday.

Group Member	Email Address

Aviary Username/Password: _____

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Step 1: Writing the Script

Your script will be written using a GoogleDoc to aid in collaboration. Brainstorm ideas together and work to edit and create your written piece together. Everyone is responsible for contributing to the group document. Your group will receive two class periods to draft the script, but feel free to meet or contribute to the work outside of class.

Script Requirements

(The following parts should be well integrated- not separate parts):

- Attention getter: Remember to grab the listener's attention right from the start! Use a previously learned strategy or consider how to best grab attention when your audience can not see but only **listen**.
- Overview of the story: Let the reader know about the general basics of the story. What is it about, who are the characters, what is the genre, how does the plot move, how do the characters change, what is the overall lesson or purpose of the story? **Be careful NOT to give the ending away!**
- Dialogue: Your script must include **actual dialogue** from your story. Choose a **minimum of two direct quotations** from your story where two or more characters are talking/interacting. Look for dialogue that is funny, moving, interesting, or important to the plot. Dialogue should be naturally incorporated into your script and should enhance your overall piece. **You must include a page number on the script.**
- Final Hook: The end of your script should leave your reader hanging—make them want to go get the book immediately! Do not end with a recommendation, because the podcast itself IS the recommendation. Think of how commercials end with either a joke, promise, dramatic scene, clever song, catchy slogan—something that will make you remember the product and want to go buy it.

Please carefully review the following rubric before your group begins.

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Rubric for the Script

Categories	Just Starting (1)	In Progress (3)	Achieved! (5)
Attention Getter	Script did not begin with an attention getter.	Script made an attempt to gain the audience's attention.	Script demanded audience's attention.
Story Overview	Overview is confusing or jumps around, omitting major parts or necessary explanations.	Clearly outlines major plot developments and introduces characters.	Provides an interesting overview of the story with clear and descriptive language.
Use of Dialogue (quotes from your book)	Dialogue is missing or is poorly incorporated into the script.	Dialogue is included within the script.	Strong selection of dialogue to enhance the natural flow of the script.
Final Hook	Ends with an obvious "recommendation" or just suddenly stops.	Ties the script together neatly.	Ends on a strong note, leading the listener to want to get this book.
Google Doc	The group did not complete the Google Document.	The document was used, though not collaboratively.	All members utilized and contributed to the online document.
Grammar	Script includes many typos, run-ons, or other convention errors.	Script may include minor issues with grammar and conventions.	Script follows correct grammar structure and conventions.
Use of Class Time (Individual Grade)	Class time was wasted or misused	On task and contributing most of the time	Class time was used appropriately and deadlines were maintained.

Total Score for the Written Script: _____/35 points

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Step 2: Recording Narration

Once your group finishes the script, assign parts for each group member to read. Consider splitting the part strategically:

- Assign character voices to different group members to be consistent
- Avoid long, overly wordy passages without breaks to new speakers
- The script will have to make sense to an audience that cannot see the speakers and has not read the book.

Print your script, and carefully mark it so that everyone knows what part to read. Take turns recording the narration on the program. **Each time someone comes to the end of a part, STOP the recording.** Start a new recording for the next person to speak. This way, you won't mess up an entire recording because someone makes an error.

Listen to each recording BEFORE going on to the next. Be sure that your voice is clear, easy to understand, and at a proper voice level. Try to use intonation and vary your voice to make it interesting to listen to. You may delete recordings and record again, however, keep in mind you will only get **one class period** to complete this step.

Step 3: Mixing music and audio

As a group, listen to the different options for background music. You want your music to create the MOOD of your script and enhance your overall point.

Feel free to change music and styles throughout the podcast. Also, make sure that the audio levels are set so that you can hear the narration over the music.

Have fun playing around, but you only have **one class period** to select and organize your music. If you need more time, feel free to work outside of class.

Step 4: Converting and Publishing

Finally, when your narration and music is set, your final podcast should be a **minimum of two minutes long**. At this point, Ms. Stoetzel will help you to convert, publish, and eventually post your final podcast to the classroom page. A full day will be set aside for this step, allowing for extra time to make any changes needed from previous work days.

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Final Podcast Rubric

Categories	Just Starting (1)	In Progress (3)	Achieved! (5)
Arrangement of Narration	Narration is hard to follow or includes long passages without breaks.	Narration includes everyone and is generally well divided.	Narration is easy to follow and divided well.
Intonation and Enthusiasm of Narration	Lacking intonation or enthusiasm. Drags on or bores the audience.	Sometimes engaging to listen to, though other parts drag on.	Narration is engaging and interesting to listen to.
Clarity and Volume Levels	Muffled narration or overwhelming music makes portions hard to hear.	Most parts are easy to understand.	Audio levels are set so that narration is easy to understand.
Use of Music to Set Mood	Music does not set the mood or enhance the quality of the piece.	Music seems to go along with the script.	Selection of music creates mood and drama within the piece!
Use of sound effects, layering, or other advanced mixing features	Group did not attempt to incorporate any additional features.	Group attempted to incorporate additional features.	Additional features engage the audience and contribute to overall effectiveness.
Overall Pacing of Podcast	Portions were too fast to understand or too slow to maintain interest.	Most parts were easy to follow and understand.	The speed and flow of narration was easy to follow and kept the listener engaged!
Final product saved as 2 minute MP3	Too short and brief to clearly meet requirements.	At least 1 minute long, but lacking full development.	Correct file with acceptable length.