

Lesson Plan: Starting a Podcast

Grade Level: Middle School

Duration: 50 minutes

Objective: Students will learn the basics of podcasting, including idea development, structure, recording, and sharing. By the end, they will create a short practice podcast segment in groups.

Materials Needed

- Whiteboard or projector
- Example clip from a kid-friendly podcast (2–3 minutes)
- Paper and pencils (for brainstorming)
- Phones/tablets or classroom computers with a simple recording app (e.g., Voice Memos, Audacity, Anchor/Spotify for Podcasters)
- Optional: Headphones and external microphones

Lesson Breakdown

1. Hook & Introduction (5 minutes)

Begin by asking: “Who listens to podcasts? What kinds?”

Play a 2–3 minute clip of a popular age-appropriate podcast.

Explain: Podcasts are like radio shows you can record, edit, and share on demand.

2. What Makes a Good Podcast? (10 minutes)

On the board, list key elements:

1. Topic/Theme
2. Audience
3. Structure (intro, main content, closing)
4. Personality/Style
5. Sound quality

Class discussion: Why do people keep listening? (Stories, humor, information, voices)

3. Brainstorming Ideas (10 minutes)

Break students into small groups (3–4).

Each group chooses a topic (sports, hobbies, school life, interviews, funny stories).

They decide:

- Who their audience is
- What the podcast's name might be
- What the first episode could cover

4. Mini Script & Recording Practice (15 minutes)

Each group writes a short outline (about 1–2 minutes of content).

- Intro: Welcome + podcast name
- Body: One fun fact, story, or quick discussion
- Outro: Closing line or “see you next time!”

Groups record their mini-episode using phones/computers.

Encourage them to speak clearly, avoid background noise, and take turns.

5. Sharing & Reflection (8 minutes)

Play a few recordings for the class.

Discuss:

- What worked well?
- What could be improved? (volume, pacing, clarity, excitement)

Reinforce that practice and editing make podcasts better.

6. Wrap-Up (2 minutes)

Summarize: Podcasts start with an idea, grow with planning, and come alive through recording.

Optional homework: Students plan a 5-minute podcast episode outline to share next class.

✅ Teacher Tip: If technology is limited, students can just perform their “podcast” live without recording.