

Podcasting

Creating a news broadcast

Level: Pre-intermediate +
(can be adapted for different levels)
Age: teenagers / adults
Time needed: approx. 90 minutes
Aim: to create a podcast of a news broadcast
Skills: listening, speaking, writing, webresearch

1. Write on the board: What's in the news this week?
2. Get students to brainstorm news stories that they have heard about over the last week. You could put them into small groups to do this and make it competitive by asking them to see which group can think of the most news stories. These can be world news headlines, celebrity gossip or even local or personal news stories.
3. Once the students have had some time to brainstorm their ideas, ask them to call out their news stories and you can write them up on the board. At this point don't get too many details, just get the students to be brief.
4. When you have a number of news story titles up on the board, ask the students to organize or group them into different news types (e.g. world news, personal interest, business news, etc.).
5. Next, ask them to think about the order that things usually appear on the news and ask them to order the stories as they might appear on a real news broadcast. (World news and important news usually come first; local news and personal interest stories would appear towards the end, etc.)
6. Now ask them to think about how a single news story is usually reported and how the story is structured on a news broadcast. You could play one or two examples to help them understand the structure. A simple structure could be:
 - News anchorman introduces the main points;
 - On-the-spot reporter interviews a witness or expert;
 - Return to studio anchorman to summarize the story.
7. Once you have an established structure, give different news stories to each group of students and ask them to do some research on the story. You could get them to do their research on the internet, at news sites or perhaps using Wikipedia to find extra background information.
8. After the students have completed their research, ask them to script a news story that includes an introduction by the anchorman, some kind of interview and a summary.
9. Once they have completed the script, you could ask groups to exchange scripts and peer review each other's work to suggest improvements, etc.
10. When the students are ready, ask them to record their news story using one of the podcasting tools mentioned in my [Podcasting article](#) on onestopenglish.