

At the beginning of the semester, I suggested that you may create a podcast based on your fourth independent reading selection instead of giving a book talk at the end of the semester. After talking with a few of you, I am proposing an additional option: the collaborative podcast. This option involves working in a group of 3-4 to create and publish a podcast. And while I would recommend reading a fourth book for this assignment, your group may choose one of your book journal texts for the collaborative podcast. Here's what your group would need to do:

### **1. Get hardware/software**

You will need a decent microphone to record your podcast. I recommend purchasing a USB microphone from Best Buy or a similar retailer (prices begin at around \$15.00). You'll also need an editing program. For ease of use, I recommend Audacity, which is also free and available on via my blog. For a list of other sound editors, check out Podcasting News ([http://www.podcastingnews.com/topics/Podcasting\\_Software.html](http://www.podcastingnews.com/topics/Podcasting_Software.html)). Whatever software you use, you should download it soon and begin playing around with it.

### **2. Listen to some podcasts**

The easiest way to listen to a variety of podcasts is to download the free software iTunes (<http://www.apple.com/itunes/>). When you have the program installed, search the podcast section of the music store. Download a few podcasts—they're all free—and see how they work. You might even blog about your listening experiences in your notebook.

### **3. Define your purpose and audience**

I recommend thinking about your podcast as an attempt to interest adolescent readers in a particular work of literature. If you have other ideas, though, I am open to your suggestions. You might, for example, use your podcast to promote podcasting to an audience of teachers. Whatever you decide, a literary text or texts must be the focal point.

### **4. Gather materials**

A good podcast will include more than just your voice. What sound effects or music could you use? After thinking carefully about how to use these elements, collect the files for later use. You may have to raid your CD collection or search online. If do use copyrighted materials, give credit in a brief statement at the end of your podcast.

### **5. Write the script**

You will need to turn in a copy of your podcast script. You might use your blog to work on it. There is no minimum page length, but your podcast should last at least five to six minutes.

### **6. Record and edit**

Use your podcasting software to create an .mp3 file. This step will probably take the longest time, so be sure to figure out your software early.

### **7. Publish to the web**

Upload your podcast .mp3 to your blog (using file manager) or to your web space at GVSU. All group members should link to the podcast from their blogs.

I am available to help groups throughout this process. Good luck!