

Subject area/course: English/Language Arts

Grade level/band: 9-10

Task source: Virtual Learning Academy Charter School (VLACS) in collaboration with the Center for Collaborative Education (CCE); Primary Author: Tonya Dreher

Story Podcast

STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

A. Task context:

You are interning at a public radio station and have been asked to write a story for one of their podcast shows. This could be someone else's story (you would interview them and then write the story) or a personal story. The story could be humorous or dramatic, but it must have human-interest appeal.

You will start by listening to a number of podcasts and make sure your story follows the general format of the stories. The goal is to make sure your story is publishable, either on-air or in a written format (revised and polished) and to focus on the given literary elements of a story, e.g. word choice, dialogue, sentence structure, characterization, plot, conflict.

The following is a recommended process that you may use to create your story:

- Decide what you are going to write about. It can be your own personal story, or someone else's.
- Discuss your topic with your instructor or peers and receive feedback.
- Conduct necessary research, including interviews, and write a first draft of your story.
- Discuss your draft with peers. Check for the following:
 - Make sure a strong plot and dialogue is incorporated.
 - Incorporate use of all the literary elements of a story, e.g. effective word choice, dialogue, sentence structure, characterization, plot, conflict.
- Incorporate revisions discussed. You may also want to have other people give feedback.
- Create a final draft of your story, double-checking that you have multiple effective examples of all the literary elements.
- If you are making a podcast, record it and maybe even find a place to submit it online!

B. Final product:

You will be responsible for turning in a draft and final version of the following works:

1. Written story for a public radio station that uses narrative structure and literary elements **OR** podcast of the story
2. Artist statement reflecting on the choices you made in your story—whether podcast or written story



Your artist statement should be 300 to 500 words and should explain how your podcast incorporates use of all the literary elements of a story. The statement should not retell the plot or story of your podcast. It should address individual literary elements (e.g., effective word choice, dialogue, sentence structure, characterization, plot, conflict) and explain how those elements enhance your podcast.

The artist's statement should go through the entire writing process: plan, draft, revision, editing, and proofreading. Be sure to cite your research correctly. Turn in all pieces of the process with the final typed copy.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

C. Knowledge and skills you will need to demonstrate on this task:

1. On this task, you will show that you know these things:
 - Literary elements
 - Word choice
 - Dialogue
 - Sentence structure
 - Characterization
 - Plot
 - Conflict
2. On this task, you will show that you are able to do these things:
 - In order to write and/or record a story in a meaningful way that will impact your audience, you will know how to research the important literary elements of a story and analyze how these elements make a story engaging.

D. Materials needed:

- Internet access
- You may need hardware and software necessary to conduct and record interviews and to produce a podcast (for example, Garage Band).

The following websites will be helpful as you move through this task:

- Examples of story podcast:
 - <http://themoth.org/about/programs/the-moth-podcast>
 - <http://www.thisamericanlife.org/>
 - <http://storycorps.org/>
 - <http://www.npr.org/series/4538138/this-i-believe>
- Websites on literary elements of a story:
 - <http://www.alicekuipers.com/10-tips-for-writing-better-dialogue/>
 - http://ywp.nanowrimo.org/files/ywp/ywp_10_hs_dialogue.pdf
 - <http://www.kisd.org/khs/english/help%20page/Descriptive%20Words.htm>
 - <http://www.writersdigest.com/writing-articles/by-writing-goal/write-first-chapter-get-started/hooked-on-a-feeling>



E. Time requirements:

This task will take approximately 3 weeks.

F. Scoring:

Your work will be scored using the QPA Common Literary Analysis Rubric. You should make sure you are familiar with the language that describes the expectations for proficient performance.

