

English 12H & Writing Fellows Summer Podcast Project



What is a podcast?

A podcast is a series of spoken word, audio episodes, all focused on a particular topic or theme. You can subscribe to the show with [an app on your phone](#) and listen to episodes whenever you like on your headphones, in the car, even on the beach! On an Apple device, simply click on the “podcasts” icon. [Spotify](#) and YouTube also offer podcasts.

Why does my summer assignment include listening to podcasts?

Listening to podcasts is a great way to learn new things and stay entertained. When listening to a podcast, it's important to pay attention to the core arguments being made by the host or guests. By actively listening and engaging with the content, you can improve your comprehension skills and gain valuable insights on various topics.

Task:

- Listen to ***each of the podcasts listed in the table below.***
- As you listen, analyze the elements and techniques of both podcasting and storytelling, because stories are often at the heart of podcasts.

What should I listen for?

Upon beginning English 5H/Writing Fellows, you will be given a test on the core lessons from *The Last Lecture* (the summer reading) and the notable moments from each podcast episode. After each episode, write a *5-7 sentence reflection* on a Google doc. *Please review the rubric on page 3 before responding.* More does not equal better. Write a response highlighting the main points discussed and your thoughts/a reflection on the topic (therefore, the first person pronoun "I" is permissible).

Listen to each of the episodes in the table below.

Episode	Publication Date	Summary
" Should Schools Ban Phones? "	May 23, 2024	Who is Audie Cornish? Good question! Before you listen to her podcast, read her biography. What happens when you take away a kid's phone during school hours? In a word: drama. Some schools around the country are trying to completely remove smartphones from classrooms, requiring students to place them in pouches. Audie talks with Carol Kruser, Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services at Chicopee Public Schools in Massachusetts. She successfully advocated for a district-wide ban on phones. We also hear from Suzanna Kopans, a high school senior who willingly parted with her phone. She's part of an organization called Phone-Free Schools Movement.
"What's the Environmental Cost of AI?" Apple Podcast Link	May 07, 2025	By 2028, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory forecasts that U.S. data centers could use as much as 12% of the nation's electricity. The reason: generative AI. Since 2022, AI innovation by four leading tech companies — Google, Microsoft, Meta and Amazon — has led to annual increases in both energy and water consumption. So, in this episode, Short Wave co-host Emily Kwong probes the huge water footprint of AI. We begin with the rise of data centers, then look at how computers came to need so much water and, finally, what tech companies are doing to try to turn the ship around.
" Is Online Gambling a Public Health Threat? "	April 04, 2024	What is driving the concern over online gambling? We hear from NBA star Rex Chapman, author of the memoir, <i>It's Hard For Me To Live With Me</i>. Chapman gives us insight into both the world of sports and the world of gambling. While he's never participated in sports betting himself, he reflects on his experiences gambling millions on horse racing and blackjack. After Chapman's interview, Cornish speaks with the lawyer who took on Big Tobacco, Richard Daynard, who says it is an addictive product. The Public Health Advocacy Institute, which he heads up, is suing the sports betting platform DraftKings for deceptive advertising. Audie talks with Daynard, who's made a career of bringing lawsuits in pursuit of public health, a strategy he calls "wholesale" rather than "retail."

How to submit: Your teacher will give you submission directions on the first day of class.

Questions? Email your teacher (if you know who it is) or either teacher below:

Mr. Weiner: bweiner@staff.colonialsd.org

Miss Moyer: dmoyer@staff.colonialsd.org

Response Rubric. *5-7 sentence response for each podcast.*

Criteria	Exceeds (3)	Meets (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Summary of Main Points	Provides a thorough, well-organized summary of the main points discussed in the podcast episode. Demonstrates a deep understanding of the key topics.	Provides a satisfactory summary of the main points discussed in the podcast episode. Demonstrates a general understanding of the key topics.	Provides a limited or disorganized summary of the main points discussed in the podcast episode. Demonstrates a lack of understanding of the key topics.
Reflection on Topic	Offers insightful, well-reasoned thoughts and reflections on the topic discussed in the podcast episode. Provides clear connections between the content and personal experiences or perspectives.	Offers appropriate thoughts and reflections on the topic discussed in the podcast episode. Provides some connections between the content and personal experiences or perspectives.	Offers limited or superficial thoughts and reflections on the topic discussed in the podcast episode. Provides few or no connections between the content and personal experiences or perspectives.
Writing Quality	The reflection is well-written, with clear and coherent sentences, proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation. The writing is engaging and demonstrates a strong command of the English language.	The reflection is generally well-written, with mostly clear and coherent sentences, and few errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation. The writing is satisfactory.	The reflection is poorly written, with unclear or disjointed sentences, and multiple errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation. The writing is difficult to understand.