

Podcast Analysis Proposal

The Podcast Analysis Proposal is simply a declaration and rationale for the podcast(s) you plan to follow as a basis for your Podcast Analysis Assignment. Like a Reading Response, it should be one-page single-spaced (typed) and run roughly 300-500 words. It will largely be a participation grade but I will give you 1-5 participation points for it. Its main purposes are a) to prepare you for the Podcast Analysis Assignment, and b) to give me a chance to give you some initial feedback on your idea and approve the topic.

As I have been suggesting all semester, you should search for good podcasts to listen to and follow as genre models for your own podcast series. You can find *one* really good podcast to follow as a model or *three* related podcasts to follow and draw ideas from. The podcast or podcasts should be related to the general category or topics of your podcast series. If you decide to follow three, chose three from the more general Music category, for example. If you decide to follow only one, try to make it more specific to what you are interested in, DJing, for example.

Possible topics are pretty wide open: they can be something related to your major, related to another course you have this semester and are interested in enough to double up on the research, or can be related to a personal interest or community practice that you are involved in. Again, take a look at the "Intro to Podcasts" document I posted on the syllabus. The types and topics of podcasts out there are pretty wide ranging. Also as noted in the document, you can listen to podcasts online through a web browser, on a computer through iTunes or Google play, or on a phone with an app. Explore and decide what works best for you.

For the Podcast Analysis Assignment you'll want podcasts to follow that have plenty of available episodes. As I noted in "Intro to Podcasts," I have a pretty big "set" of podcasts that I listen to in order to develop my sense of what podcasts are as a genre. You'll want to listen to enough episodes that you can perform a similar generalizing move (1 or 2 episodes won't really be enough to generalize from).

Once you've selected what to follow, you'll probably want to listen to at least one episode of each series, or three episodes of one series, and then run down this list of questions to write a solid paragraph or so as an "abstract" or proposal for the Podcast Analysis Assignment, where you'll write and produce your own 3 episode series:

1. Identify and describe the podcast(s) and the organization(s) or individuals that produce them.
2. Describe and discuss some of the recurrent themes and/or recent episodes of the series. What exactly do they talk about, both topically in general and specifically in the episodes you listened to.
3. Explain why this is a topic, theme, or area that you want to follow. How does it connect to your interests, experiences, and goals? What do you hope to get out of further exploration of this topic? (Again, this can be academically, professionally, or personally.)

4. Note what you've noticed so far about how the podcast(s) use sound. Doesn't have to be super detailed; just identify what has jumped out at you in your initial listenings.

*Bring a hardcopy of your one-page proposal to the next class.