

Radio Plays! Grade 6, 7 and 8

Pre-production

On a given topic, theme or strand, assign students the task of creating a radio play. Play several examples. This may take the form of an audio PSA (public service announcement), advertisement, or “mock” ad.

Student Planning

Have students write a script. A template may be provided, or a set of specific criteria (i.e. sound effects, narration, dialogue) may be identified and modeled by the teacher and required as part of the assignment. The teacher should provide a rubric outlining the elements of form and content to be covered.

Production

Once the script is complete, teach students how to use GarageBand for Apple, or Audacity for Windows. Students then record their scripts. Note: background noise can be a factor here; headphones will help students hear their own recordings, but there may be some unwanted extra sound in the final product. Have students mix their files down to MP3 format. Collect the recordings on a USB key or other external storage device.

Example:



Presentation

Play the radio plays for the whole class. Use in morning announcements, on a website, or upload to a podcast.

Reflection

Have students critique the radio plays, offering constructive comments on what worked well, what may have been improved, and how. Students self-evaluate using the rubric.