

Introduction

What is podcasting? Podcasting is a blend of two words originally from iPod and broadcasting making podcasting. Later, as wikipedia states, as more mp3 players were developed some parties redefined pod to mean personal on demand broadcast player. Wikipedia says, "A podcast is a series of audio or video files which is distributed over the Internet through feeds, to portable mp3 players and personal computers. Though the same content may also be made available by direct download or streaming, a podcast is distinguished from other digital-media formats by its ability to be syndicated, subscribed to, and downloaded automatically when new content is added.

Like the term broadcast, podcast can refer either to the series of content itself or to the method by which it is syndicated; the latter is also called podcasting. The host or author of a podcast is often called a podcaster.

The term is a fusion of the words "iPod" and "broadcast", the Apple iPod being the brand of portable media player for which the first podcasting scripts were developed. As more devices other than iPods became able to synchronize with podcast feeds, the term was redefined by some parties as a backronym for "Personal On Demand broadCASTING."

This simply means that material comes to you, and it's personal so you select the content you want. There are over 100,000 public podcast series and most of them are free.

So, how can it be used in education? I've used podcasting to focus on a composer each month. Other teachers have used it to make audio books, readers theatre, history projects and more. Still others have developed radio shows and even test review podcasts.

Can students use it? Students use podcasting to do book reports, tell about what's happening at school and the community and do radio shows about their favorite authors. A great example of what elementary students can do can be found at <mrcoley.com>. Look for ColeyCasts. I also have student created podcasts at <mrkrieg.com>. These are planned and produced by students.

How will students benefit from podcasting? Podcasting is a creative way to compile, edit, produce and publish material of any kind. Students learn ways to narrow down phrases and eliminate paragraphs that will make the podcast too long or be uninteresting to the listener. Students can follow the same proof-reading, editing guidelines for writing an essay.