



## Choosing A Topic, 60 minutes

**Objective:** Students will choose a topic for their podcast.

\*Skip this stage if you're assigning the class a prompt or idea for the podcast. Alternately, use this time as an opportunity for students to brainstorm for that prompt.

**What you need:** N/A

**What students need:** Pencil and paper

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### Part 1: Small-group brainstorming, 30 minutes

\*If your class is creating their podcasts in small groups, have them split into those small groups now and spend the entire class period completing this activity.

**Distribute copies of the following prompts to students as they work in small groups of 3–5.**

Directions for students: Pick three of these prompts that you think would be fun to make a podcast about. Come up with an idea for each of these three prompts. How would you structure it? (A conversation as a group? An interview with one person? A story with clips of interviews and sounds, narrated by a host?)

1. Tell us a story about your school or community: about something that happened there -- recently or in the past -- that you want your audience to know about.
2. What is a moment in history that all students should learn about?
3. Show us both sides of a debate about an issue that's important to you.
4. What do you want to change about the world? What's a big change that you want to make in the future?
5. Explain something to us that kids understand and grownups don't.

**After 20 minutes, go around the room and have each group share their favorite idea with the class. Have students write these ideas on the board. (10 mins)**

## **Part 2: Class brainstorming**, 30 mins

**Students should narrow down the ideas written on the board down to one. Use these questions to help. They should be thinking about specific tasks — interviews, sound recording, or editing — that each podcast idea could involve.**

- What obstacles might come up as we create this podcast?
  - If this podcast idea involves traveling somewhere far away or interviewing someone famous, it might be difficult.
- Does the timeline work?
  - Can students complete their interviews or record other sounds well before the podcasts are due -- so that they have time to edit the audio?