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

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?