

COMM 260W – News Writing

Podcasting Assignment

Instead of turning in a written article for this assignment, you'll be recording your story as a news podcast or radio broadcast.

You can report on any topic that can be considered "newsworthy" in either the greater State College area or your hometown in the form of a hard news story or short feature. You can cover national news but remember that your audience will be most interested if the story links back to the local community. Your story cannot be an opinion or editorial. It must be based on research and gathered interviews along with providing a fair and balanced review of the news event or person(s) being featured.

Resources:

You can record the podcast on your phone or by reserving audio equipment through the [library Media CommonsLinks to an external site.](#). Note that for this semester reservations must be made at least 24 hours in advance for their equipment and walk-ins are not allowed. Their website offers [software tutorialsLinks to an external site.](#) or you can schedule an appointment if you want more hands-on help.

Media and Technology Support Services at Wagner Annex offers equipment rentals including microphones that you can use in any capacity as a student. [Reservations are requiredLinks to an external site.](#), they are not offering walk up services at this time. Remember to request a memory card if you do not own one. See a [full list of available equipmentLinks to an external site.](#) on their website.

You can record and edit audio of any type with Adobe Audition (available for free using your Penn State Creative Cloud account). There are multiple online tools that are free or offer trial periods including Simplecast.

This [resource from NPRLinks to an external site.](#) is a good beginners guide.

Details:

- Your final recording should be 5-7 minutes long (about 750 words) and include at least three interviews. As always, it should include a strong lede and follow AP style guidelines.
- Turn in a written script with your final recorded version.

Timeline:

- The lab meeting on Wednesday, March 17 will mimic a news room weekly meeting in which you will [pitch your story idea](#) to the class and receive feedback. Your pitch should be as well researched, thought out, and organized as it can be. The more complete your idea, the better the feedback you will receive. Your idea will receive final approval from the instructor.
- [Turn in a final pitch](#) in written form on Friday, March 19

- Turn in your [draft for peer review](#) by Friday, March 26 at 8 a.m. Complete a peer review of your partner's story by 8 a.m. on Monday, March 29.
- Final version of your story is due on Wednesday, March 31 at 11:59 p.m. including a written script and all interview/research notes

Example Podcast and Radio Broadcasts:

- "[The Haunting Effects of Going Days Without Sleep](#)[Links to an external site.](#)" NPR
- "[With A Leap Across Gender Norms, A Rising Ballet Star Looks To Rewrite Rules Of Dance](#)[Links to an external site.](#)" NPR