

# "Using the Ear to Train the Eye: Some Classroom Experiments in Podcasting and Vodcasting"

## Some Types of Instructional Podcasts

**Archiving Class Sessions** Recordings of class meetings (I use an old iPod for this purpose); recording can be synchronized with slide shows to create Vodcasts; useful for student review and for self-reflection by instructor.

**Pronunciation and listening practice** Recordings by the instructor or advanced students of words, sentences, and passages; can be used to model correct pronunciations of assignments, or for more sophisticated practice with aural comprehension and dialogues.

**"Study-Speed" recordings** Passages read at a slower than natural pace, emphasizing word groups, phrases, and clauses; useful for pre-reading and reviewing.

**"Workshops"** The instructor works through examples from assignments, showing how an experienced reader tackles particular phrases/sentences/passages.

**"Mini-lectures"** Instruction on topics not presented during regular class sessions; review meaning and implications of difficult concepts; provide supplementary material about authors, works, cultural phenomena, etc., allowing students to explore cultural phenomena further as their interests develop; students could generate as part of research projects.

**Dynamic Vocabulary and drill practice** Recordings by instructor and/or students of vocabulary and phrases; students can combine these in different ways or "shuffle" them, creating personalized, randomized drills.

**Student-developed or -modified materials** Since students can download files, they can combine or manipulate these into forms more beneficial for their personal leaning needs; student-developed or -modified content can be easily distributed to the rest of the class.

## Sample Instructions for Subscribing to Podcasts in iTunes and Using Smart Playlists

For Macs: [www.haverford.edu/classics/courses/omni/guides/PodcastInstructMac.pdf](http://www.haverford.edu/classics/courses/omni/guides/PodcastInstructMac.pdf)

For PCs: [www.haverford.edu/classics/courses/omni/guides/PodcastInstructPC.pdf](http://www.haverford.edu/classics/courses/omni/guides/PodcastInstructPC.pdf)

## Some Options for Creating Podcasts and Vodcasts

### Audacity



Audacity is a free, open source application for recording and editing sound. Excellent for simple Podcasts and student projects.

**Pros:** free; simple, straightforward user interface; multi-track recording available; available for Mac, PC, Linux, and other systems.

**Cons:** Limited to audio recordings; have to install encoder to export to mp3.

[audacity.sourceforge.net](http://audacity.sourceforge.net)

### Keynote & PowerPoint



Keynote (Mac) and PowerPoint (Mac, PC) both contain an audio recording feature and the ability to export presentations video. If you have complicated visuals (including animations and embedded movies and audio), these programs are good options.

**Pros:** permit easy creation of sophisticated animations for Vodcasts; Built-in recording feature allows for direct control of slides and animations while recording voiceover; easy exporting to Quicktime or Flash (and other formats).

**Cons:** only offer "one-shot" recording; cannot record multiple audio tracks; cannot edit or re-record segment without restarting from beginning (in Keynote you can export to *Garageband* for audio editing); cost (although PowerPoint is widely available on campuses).

### ProfCast



A straight-forward application for creating enhanced Podcasts and Vodcasts. Lets you record lectures over PowerPoint and/or Keynote slides and includes integrated publishing feature.

**Pros:** integrated publishing; very easy to use; offers an integrated workflow for makes creating, recording, and publishing podcasts; ability to export to *Garageband* for audio editing.

**Cons:** Currently Mac only (PC version is promised); as with Keynote and PowerPoint, only offers "one-shot" recording unless you also own *Garageband* for editing; cost (\$60; plus *iLife* if you want to edit audio).

[www.profcast.com](http://www.profcast.com)

### GarageBand



A powerful multi-track sound program; part of Apple's *iLife* suite of applications.

**Pros:** Significantly more options than *Audacity*, including built-in sound effects, filters, and more; ability to organize Podcasts into chapters that display pictures and web links as your audience listens (simple Vodcasts); integrated Podcast support with option to export to iTunes Store.

**Cons:** Mac only; steeper learning curve than *Audacity*; cost.

### iMovie



Apple's consumer video editing application; part of Apple's *iLife* suite. I used *iMovie* to create my Catullus 1 Vodcast. Good for creating true Vodcasts with complex video components.

**Pros:** precise editing of audio and video material; easy incorporation of videos and video effects; exporting to a variety of formats.

**Cons:** Mac only; cost; *iMovie '08* widely criticized as not intuitive and lacking in features (the previous version, *iMovieHD*, is much easier to use and more powerful; *iMovie '09* seems to address many of the problems in '08).

There are also several free on-line tools that can be used for creating Podcasts and Vodcasts, such as WildVoice ([www.wildvoice.com](http://www.wildvoice.com)) and VoiceThread ([voicethread.com](http://voicethread.com)).