

Closing the Gap in STEM

Podcasting gives female students an outlet to share their ideas with a broad audience

Podcasting is an excellent way of moving students into an active role, especially after a difficult year of isolation from fellow classmates. It paves the way for students to become excited about education again and gives them an outlet to share their ideas with a broad audience. With this podcast focusing on encouraging girls to pursue STEM careers, it is providing hope, a refocusing point, a reason to grow, and a way for older girls to give back to younger girls.



The project focuses on two areas, Research and Interview. Students decide on the focus of the podcasts, which are meant to inspire, recruit, and retain girls in STEM fields. The girls conduct research to create valid and pertinent scripts for their podcasts. They research potential guests who will support or debate their point of view, learn how to approach, schedule, and interview influential leaders in STEM, and deliver a presentation on their topic. The entire process 'flips' the classroom into a student-driven experience instead of a teacher-driven one.



CONTACT INFORMATION GINA RUIZ-HOUSTON

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DOWNLOAD PROJECT INFO AT EDUCATIONFUND.ORG

STANDARDS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

ELA.8.C.4.1 Conduct research to answer a question, drawing on multiple reliable and valid sources, and generating additional questions for further research.

WORLD LANGUAGES

WL.K12.IH.4.6 Formulate and deliver a presentation on an assigned topic using multimedia resources to support the presentation.

WL.K12.AH.1.4 Demonstrate understanding of the message and purpose of essential authentic sources found in the target culture such as TV, radio, podcasts, and videos.

WL.K12.AL.1.4 Demonstrate understanding of information obtained from authentic sources such as TV, radio, interviews, podcasts and videos in order to function for personal needs within the target culture.

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“ My particular impetus is to recruit and retain young women and underrepresented students into the sciences.”

WORKSHOP INSTRUCTION – WHAT TEACHERS LEARN

Definition of Podcast

How to integrate technology into the classroom

How all teachers can involve their students in podcasting

STUDENTS

Adaptation: Grade level can be 9-12 but middle school grades can easily adapt this project

Students who participated: 9th-12th grade, female students in the Girls Who Code club

MATERIALS & RESOURCES

Materials: Computer, microphone on a boom stand, memory stick, mixer/combiner, headphones, cabling

Resources: The Internet, Zoom platform

ABOUT THE TEACHER

Gina Ruiz-Houston is in her 24th year of teaching and the department head and team leader in her school. She is a College Board Question Writer & Reader and recently earned the APSI Fellows Scholarship Recipient 2021 & 2020. Gina is also a recipient of various grants from The Education Fund. No assistants were needed for this project.

To register for this workshop, visit www.educationfund.org