

Homework 2

Podcast Analysis

After more than 20 years since their creation, Podcasts remain an extremely popular platform for science communication. They range casual recordings to highly produced radio shows, and can be minutes to hours in duration. Some run for short number of episodes, some for hundreds (or even thousands) of episodes over many years! The style choices used in effective and popular Podcasts are so varied that its hard to identify many strict rules... but clear story telling and high quality audio are always key.

Your assignment is to find 2 Podcast episodes, broadly in the realm of science communication, listen to them carefully, and then analyze and summarize them. *Note: these do not need to be astronomy focused Podcasts.* The aim is to develop your critical listening skills in the context of science communication, and

Analysis

[50 points per Episode]

- Provide the Podcast name, episode, and links to the 2 episodes you are analyzing.
 - Note: You must choose different podcasts for each, not 2 episodes of the same show!
 - Make sure these are from reputable sources (e.g. major news outlets or established podcast producers)
- Briefly summarize each episode, highlighting the main science points covered.
- Describe the podcast's style. e.g. Is it a weekly interview show? Are there elements of comedy or fiction? Are there hosts and guests, or is it a podcast by a scientist or science journalist directly?
- Who is the intended audience, do you think? e.g. what is the age group, which platforms or stations do they listen on?
- What is the presentation style and pacing like? What do you like or dislike about how the content is presented? Which parts are pre-recorded, which sound live, which sound heavily edited?
- How are other audio elements used? What is the role of music, sound effects, ambient noise? How is the location or atmosphere conveyed to the listener?
- Are there visual or web elements provided to accompany the episode? How are they discussed or referenced in the episode?
- How effective is the science communication or outreach? Is the program mostly entertainment, education, or "edutainment"?

Each report should be at least 1 page long (i.e. at least ~500 words), use complete sentences, and provide thoughtful details about the content being reviewed.

Podcast Suggestions

If you're having a hard time finding something listen to, here are a few you might check out:

- [Short Wave](#)
- [SciShow Tangents](#)
- [Cool Worlds Podcast](#)
- [Wow in the World](#)
- [The Supermassive Podcast](#)
- [Houston We Have a Podcast](#)
- [Hidden Brain](#)
- [Universe Today](#)

Due

[Use the Dropbox Upload Link](#). Due by 9pm PDT on Thursday April 4, 2024.

Assignments must be in digital format. PDF is preferred, but Word or Pages is acceptable.