Podcasting in the Social Studies Classroom
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Podcasts for Teaching History and Government

- **APM Reports** - 10-50 minutes
  - [https://www.apmreports.org/podcasts](https://www.apmreports.org/podcasts)
  - Series - Campaign ‘68, Educate, Historically Black, King’s Last March, Order 9066 (Japanese Internment)

- **BackStory** - 50 minutes (divided into roughly 10 minute sections)
  - [https://www.backstoryradio.org/](https://www.backstoryradio.org/)

- **Civics 101** - 10-30 minutes - FAVORITE!!
  - [https://www.civics101podcast.org/episodes](https://www.civics101podcast.org/episodes)
  - From New Hampshire Public Radio
  - The hosts interview experts about select topics in American government
  - 2019 season focuses on founding documents

- **Constitutional** - Around 60 minutes
  - [https://www.washingtonpost.com/podcasts/constitutional/?utm_term=.3c7440ff9f5b](https://www.washingtonpost.com/podcasts/constitutional/?utm_term=.3c7440ff9f5b)
  - From the Washington Post - following the completion of their Presidential series.

- **Hidden Brain** - 30-50 minutes
  - [https://www.npr.org/series/423302056/hidden-brain](https://www.npr.org/series/423302056/hidden-brain)
  - Psychology-related stories and studies
  - Some political science as well

- **Marketplace** (NPR) - 25 minutes
  - Good economic pieces

- **The Memory Palace** - Under 10 minutes
  - [http://thememorypalace.us/category/episodes/](http://thememorypalace.us/category/episodes/)
  - Short snapshots of events

- **More Perfect** - Around 45 minutes - FAVORITE!!
  - [https://www.wnycstudios.org/shows/radiolabmoreperfect](https://www.wnycstudios.org/shows/radiolabmoreperfect)
  - Seasons 1&2 highlight Supreme Court cases; season 3 focuses on amendments
  - I love the first two seasons. Students listen to them and remember what they hear! Great storytelling!

- **Planet Money** (NPR) - 10-20 minutes
  - Short economic pieces

- **Presidential** (The Washington Post) - 30-55 minutes
  - There is an episode for each president.
  - Covers personal background, not just the presidency.

- **Retropod** (Washington Post) - Under 10 minutes
  - [https://www.washingtonpost.com/podcasts/retropod/?utm_term=.1b5e5589b9f5](https://www.washingtonpost.com/podcasts/retropod/?utm_term=.1b5e5589b9f5)
  - When searching, include your topic and retropod. Otherwise you will get articles.
  - Not the most interesting delivery, but discuss interesting events in history.
● **Revisionist History** - 30-50 minutes
  ○ Great example of history - using evidence and sources
  ○ Unique topics
  ○ Season 2 has several episodes about the Civil Rights movement

● **The Story** - 20-30 minutes
  ○ I love these! The host conducts interviews as guests reveal a story from history.

● **StoryCorps** (NPR) - 3 minutes
  ○ [https://storycorps.org/](https://storycorps.org/)
  ○ Interviews conducted between two friends, family members, or acquaintances.
  ○ Short and sweet

● **This American Life** - About 50 minutes (many episodes are divided into chapters that could be assigned individually)
  ○ [https://www.thisamericanlife.org/](https://www.thisamericanlife.org/)
  ○ Quirky storytelling which revolves around a theme each week.

● **Witness History** (BBC World Service) - Under 10 minutes - **FAVORITE!!**
  ○ [https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p004t1hd](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p004t1hd)
  ○ They also offer short videos.
  ○ I really enjoy these - as do 95% of my students.
Worksheet for Witness History: World War I

Choose a podcast from the folder in Schoology. Listen to it and answer the following questions.

1. Title of Podcast: ______________________________________________________________

2. What features of the podcast make it entertaining or interesting? (Think about what elements or features you would want to use in a podcast you made and explain them.)**

3. Who is interviewed in the podcast? Tell their name and give a synopsis of their story.**

4. What does this podcast teach you about imperialism or World War I?**

5. What is a question you have after listening to the podcast? (What is something else you would like to know?)*
**1920s Podcast**

1. Read the article “DACA, The 1924 Immigration Act and American Exclusion” by Ben Railton

2. Create a podcast that includes:
   a. Description of the 1924 Immigration Act.
   b. Description of DACA and Trump’s travel ban.
   c. Description of what Ben Railton (author of the article) means by “the battle between exclusionary and inclusive visions of America.”
   d. Analysis of how the 1924 Immigration Act, DACA, and Trump’s travel ban fit into this debate “between exclusionary and inclusive visions of America.”
   e. Interview with anyone getting their opinion on exclusionary verses inclusive visions of American immigration. (You could ask them specifically about their view on DACA and Trump's travel ban.)
      i. Do not interview someone who does not want to be interviewed.
      ii. You may have to describe the laws and concept before or during the interview.
   f. Music at the beginning and at least once in the middle as a transition.

3. You can weave the above elements together to make your podcast flow. You do not need to do them in order.

4. **Your podcast must be between three and five minutes. You cannot go over five minutes, so you may need to edit your interview.**

**Elvis Podcast**

You will create a 1-2 minute movie review for “When America Was Rocked” part of the History Channel’s “10 Days that Unexpectedly Changed America” series. The episode was directed by Emmy, Peabody, Sundance, and Independent Spirit Award winner Bruce Sinofsky. It was produced by @radical.media.

Any podcast over two minutes will receive a zero.

You must include:

- Name of the episode
- Director and producer
- Description of the style of the episode
- A synopsis of the episode (what was it about?)
  - What was its main points?
  - What were some surprising facts? - OPTIONAL
  - Describe a particularly strong, effective, emotion, visually compelling scene - OPTIONAL
- Whether or not you recommend the episode
  - Explain why or why not?
  - Who would you recommend the video for? - OPTIONAL
- Relevance to today - OPTIONAL
ATOMIC WEAPONS INVESTIGATION

Question: How have nuclear weapons changed war and peace (and life)?

You must use NINE points from the suggested resources list to investigate the question above. If you would like to use a source you find, it must be pre-approved by me. I do suggest that if you find an interesting topic in one of the sources that you follow up with a search of that topic. Make sure, however, that your answer doesn't focus on a single event. Your answer should utilize examples between 1945 through today.

Your final product may be either a written piece, cartoon, or podcast. All work will be submitted on Schoology.

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Criteria | Grading Scale
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Introduction & Thesis
Essay includes a an introductory claim, which articulates how the student thinks that atomic weapons have changed war and peace. | 5 Excellent (Original - explains why or how) | 3 Satisfactory | 0 There is no claim.
Evidence
Student discusses at least three historical events. | 15 Detailed, relevant description of each event. | 9 Good | 6 Satisfactory | 3 Needs Improvement | 0 No evidence
Argument
Student ties each historical event to their claim. | 15 Excellent | 9 Good | 6 Satisfactory | 3 Needs Improvement | 0 Student does not connect events to claim
Cites Sources
Student cites at least three sources. Student should refer to the author, title, and source (producer, magazine, podcast) for each citation. | 9 Student correctly cites three sources. | 6 Student correctly cites two sources. | 3 Student correctly cites one source OR cites more with errors. | 0 Student makes no attempt to cite sources
How have atomic weapons impacted the world?

1. **All Things Considered - "On the Brink: The Cuban Missile Crisis Revisited** (1 Point)
   ○ Michael Dobbs attempts to separate the facts of the Cuban Missile Crisis from the myths in his new book, *One Minute to Midnight*.

2. **American History Tellers - “The Cold War - Nuclear Fear”** (4 points)
   ○ Told in the second person, this podcast recounts the events of the Cuban Missile Crisis and the fear is spread throughout the United States. The story is told in part with news clips from the time period. (You may need to scroll down to find it. It is the January 3, 2018 episode.)

3. **Asia Society - “A Brief History of Nuclear Weapons States”** (2 Points) - WEBSITE
   ○ A brief article about the history of nuclear weapons.

4. **The Atlantic - “The Unexpected Return of ‘Duck and Cover’”** (2 Points) - ONLINE ARTICLE
   ○ "Duck and cover" is back, not as kitsch but once again as serious advice from the federal government. Faced with growing concerns about a nuclear attack on one or more major cities -- this time from terrorists, or bombs smuggled instead of dropped by countries like Iran or North Korea -- authorities are once again looking to educate citizens about what to do in the event of a nuclear attack.

5. **Backstory - "A Friendship Out of Fallout"** (1 Point)
   ○ Brian Balogh speaks with Shigeko Sasamori, a survivor of the Hiroshima atomic bombing, and Clifton Truman Daniel, grandson of the man who ordered that strike, about the friendship that grew as both of them worked on a project to bring survivors’ stories to the U.S.

6. **Civics 101: Nuclear Weapons** (2 Points)
   ○ On this episode: How does the United States use, or more precisely avoid using, its fearsome arsenal of nuclear weapons? How did we arrive at a world in which so many countries are armed to the teeth with nukes? What can we expect from North Korea as negotiations continue? We revisit the Cold War this week with Joe Cirincione, author of *Bomb Scare: The History and Future of Nuclear Weapons*, and president of Ploughshares Fund.

7. **The Daily - "North Korea Reaches Out"** (2 Points)
   ○ South Korea says that the North is willing to talk about dismantling its atomic arsenal. What happened to the threat of nuclear war?

8. **Duck and Cover** (1 Point) - VIDEO
   ○ *Duck and Cover* is a civil defense social guidance film that is often popularly mischaracterized as propaganda. With similar themes to the more adult oriented civil defense training films, the film was widely distributed to United States schoolchildren in the 1950s. It instructionally teaches students on what to do in the event of a nuclear explosion. The film was funded by the US Federal Civil Defense Administration and released in January 1952.

9. **Future of Life Institute - “Nuclear Dilemmas, from North Korea to Iran”** (4 Points)
   ○ I could not figure out much about this source, but the podcast has interesting information about modern arms deals and how enforcement is investigated. I thought it was interesting.
10. **History Channel - "Atomic Bomb History"** (2 Points)
   ○ A brief history of the atomic bomb from Hiroshima and through the Cold War.

11. **Nuclear Threat Initiative: Iran** (2 Points) - WEBSITE
    ○ This webpage briefly describes the history of atomic weapons in Iran.

12. **Nukes of Hazard - "Cooperative Threat Reduction or How I Stopped Worrying and Got Rid of the Bomb"** (2 Points)
    ○ When the Cold War ended, four separate countries suddenly inherited the former Soviet nuclear arsenal. Destroying and removing those weapons was a Herculean effort, and it couldn’t have been done without the bipartisan leadership of two U.S. Senators. We tell the story with Senators Nunn and Lugar, as well as former Assistant Secretary of Defense Andrew Weber.

13. **Radiolab - "Nukes: The Broadcast"** (6 Points)
    ○ On the morning of August 6th, 1945, Tsutomu Yamaguchi was in Hiroshima on a work trip. He was walking to the office when the first atomic bomb was dropped about a mile away. He survived, and eventually managed to get himself onto a train back to his hometown ... Nagasaki. The very next morning, as he tried to convince his boss that a single bomb could destroy a whole city, the second bomb dropped. Sam Kean, whose latest book *The Violinist's Thumb* scrutinizes the mysteries of our genetic code, tells Jad and Robert the incredible story of what happened to Tsutomu, explains how gamma rays shred DNA, and helps us understand how Tsutomu sidestepped a thousand year curse.
    ○ Then, we sit on the other side of the table and look at the protocol behind the country the dropped the bombs. President Richard Nixon once boasted that at any moment he could pick up a telephone and - in 20 minutes - kill 60 million people. Such is the power of the US President over the nation’s nuclear arsenal. But what if you were the military officer on the receiving end of that phone call? Could you refuse the order?

14. **Retropod - "How the Doomsday Clock Came to Be"** (1 Point)
    ○ Over the past seven decades, the Doomsday Clock has served as a metaphorical measure of humankind’s proximity to global catastrophe. Every year, scientists and nuclear experts set the clock’s time after grappling over the state of geopolitical affairs.

15. **Retropod - "The Soviet Officer Who Stopped World War III"** (2 Point)
    ○ In 1983, Stanislav Petrov, a lieutenant colonel in the Soviet Union’s Air Defense Forces, trusted his gut and averted a global nuclear catastrophe.

16. **Retropod - "The Spy Plane"** (1 Point)
    ○ Historians and national security analysts have been re-examining one particular forgotten moment in the history of U.S. and North Korea conflict.

17. **StoryCorp - 8 Days, 2-H Bombs, and 1 Team that Stopped Catastrophe** (1 Point)
    ○ In 1961, it was Jack ReVelle's job to make sure two hydrogen bombs that had accidentally dropped over North Carolina didn't explode. At StoryCorps, he tells his daughter about recovering the bombs.

18. **StoryCorp - “Kaleria Palchikoff Drago, Witness to the Atom Bomb”** (1 Point)
    ○ This interview, recorded in December 1945, was the only English-language eyewitness account. The speaker, Kaleria Palchikoff Drago, was a 23-year-old Russian immigrant, whose parents had moved to Japan twenty-four years earlier. She had been living just outside of the city on the day of the bombing.

19. **The Story - “Finding Father”** (3 Points)
    ○ Andrea Richardson Stowers was seven years old when her father Dale left on a Cold War military mission from which he never returned. Dale’s work was classified, so
Andrea never found out how he died. Andrea’s mother believed it was a government cover-up and convinced herself that Dale was still alive. Decades later, Andrea found a piece of paper behind an old photograph that led her on a quest to find out about her father’s death - and his life. Andrea talks with Dick Gordon about uncovering the mystery of the “cloud chasers” and finally making sense of her family’s past.

20. The Story - "Poetry from the Atomic City" (3 Points)
   ○ Poet Kathleen Flenniken grew up near the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in eastern Washington state. At the height of the Cold War, people in her town believed they were helping protect America - and that they were safe, too. But Flenniken says that when a family friend who worked at the site died from radiation exposure, she realized she had to reexamine her past. She tells host Dick Gordon her book of poetry “Plume” is an attempt to make sense of the pride and betrayal she feels when it comes to her childhood in the center of the atomic age.

21. This American Life - “Rocket Boy” (1 Point)
   ○ Paul Zimmer is eighty-three years old now, and he’s still haunted by something he saw in his teens. Something very few Americans have ever seen: The explosion of an atomic bomb. Paul’s essay originally appeared in The Georgia Review. It is read by actor John Conlee.

22. TIME - 2018 Doomsday Clock Announcement (1 Point) - VIDEO
   ○ The world moved closer to an existential catastrophe this year as the threat of nuclear warfare escalated, bringing the symbolic Doomsday Clock two minutes away from midnight, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists said Thursday. To get a variety of opinions, I recommend reading the comments as well.

23. Witness History - "Cuban Missile Crisis: The Governments" (1 Point)
   ○ For two weeks in October 1962, the Cuban Missile Crisis took the world to the brink of nuclear war. Hear those at the center of the crisis in Moscow and in Washington.

24. Witness History - "Cuban Missile Crisis: The Showdown" (1 Point)
   ○ Fifty years ago, the USA and the Soviet Union were poised to go to war over nuclear weapons in Cuba. The Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev finally offered to withdraw the missiles as the crisis came to a head. His son Sergei remembers those fraught few days.

25. Witness History - "The Search for Iraq's Weapons of Mass Destruction" (1 Point)
   ○ In early 2004, the White House began to realize that Saddam Hussein may not have had weapons of mass destruction. Hera from Dr. David Kay, the man given the job of finding them.
The Cold War changed war and peace by:

1.

-AND-

2.

Evidence (Do not write in complete sentences. Bullet point main ideas/facts. Include sources below.)

1.

Source:

2.

Source:

3.

Source:

4.

Source: