

Podcast Lesson Plan Example

PODCAST: [Foot Soldier of Birmingham](#)

The Foot Soldier of Birmingham is a podcast about a statue based on an iconic photo taken in 1963 during one of Dr. King's famous marches. The podcast describes how the statue depicts a story that does not reflect the events as retold by those depicted in the image. A close inspection of the photo and statue below demonstrates some of the differences regarding how the story is memorialized in the statue and the actual event.



This is often the first podcast I use with students, because it is captivating and introduces the idea of multiple perspectives. Because students will be hearing about the photo and the sculpture in the podcast, I find it beneficial to show them these images and analyze them prior to listening to the podcast. I also do this to avoid the potential pitfall of podcasts- its omission of visual imagery. Showing the images prior to the reading gives the students an image to keep in mind while listening. In this case the images are obvious because they are the focal point of the podcast, yet in order for podcast to reach their full potential I recommend asking oneself what images might help students process the information of the podcast and showing those to the student prior to assigning the reading. I typically do this by showing the images at the end of the class period prior to that assigned reading.

At the start of class I start with the differences they described prior to listening to the podcast then ask them to refer to their reading analysis in order to add to the list. This naturally leads into other lessons they learned during their podcast reading. After addressing their ideas from their reading analysis guides, including the questions they created I recommend some of the questions listed below to have a meaningful classroom discussion. Although the critical questions for each podcast differ, I always create the questions in advance.

Some critical questions used in discussion with this podcast are:

1. We looked at these images prior to listening to the podcast. What differences did we notice prior to listening to the podcast? What new differences can we identify? Why do you think we didn't notice those differences?
2. What aspects of the podcast do you agree with? What aspects of the podcast do you disagree with?
3. What thoughts did you have when the author, near the end of the podcast, said, "History is when each side tells its own story and the winner is what we call truth"?
4. As future teachers you will not have statues in your classroom that memorialized stories. What connections does this podcast have for your future teaching? Where are stories memorialized in schools? What role, as teachers, do we play in memorializing stories?
5. What role did the media play in this story? What role does the media play in the stories presently taking place?
6. This podcast highlights the value of multiple perspectives, is this something that we can discuss in our classrooms and if so how do we go about that? And who benefits when multiple perspectives are addressed?

One lesson idea I present in conjunction with this question is reading the children's book [*They All Saw A Cat*](#).