

# Host a Radio or TV Talk Show

## Description

If you have ever heard a radio or TV talk show, you know that they provide audiences the chance to learn about a topic or issue in some depth. Sometimes, they even take questions, calls, or e-mails from audience members. You can use such a setting to share information about a topic you have studied by choosing an issue related to your topic of study that people care about, presenting the issue (often an expert is involved, sometimes two experts with differing opinions) with the host moderating the discussion.

Radio or TV talk shows are good formats for discussing current events, hot topics, controversial issues, or problem scenarios. Crime rates, limited funds, organ transplants, and computer ethics are good topics for this kind of coverage. A twist on this idea would be to interview someone from the past or future, if your topic is historical.

Presenting information this way allows you to think deeply about the issue and how it affects people in the real world; to practice communicating your ideas clearly; to interact with others to keep ideas flowing and stay focused on the main topics, and it allows people to really listen and address each other's ideas.

## Planning

1. Figure out the topic for the show and read over the rubric that follows. Ask your teacher any questions you have about the criteria to be used for your evaluation.
2. Who will be the experts, and how will you prepare them for their parts? What research or background do they need to talk as an expert during the show? As the host, you will need to be prepared to support the experts if they falter a bit by asking a question that helps them out or draw them into the conversation if the other side is using up all the time. Prepare a list of questions that you will ask to
  - a. Develop the base for the discussion.
  - b. Give background information about the details of the issue at hand.
  - c. Set up all the conversation that will follow.
  - d. Re-energize the discussion during times the audience isn't responding.
3. Write out the introductory part of the show. What will you say from the moment the cameras and/or microphones are switched on? How will you
  - a. greet your viewers/listeners, introduce and greet your guest(s)?
  - b. ask the "setup" questions?
  - c. let the dialogue continue?

- Practice your introduction (first alone, then with someone you trust); prepare your experts, and ask your teacher to schedule your show.
- Remember to breathe deeply, speak clearly, and have fun.

## Assessing

- Fill out a copy of the following rubric for yourself and each of your teammates; also, ask your teacher and your audience to rate your efforts.

RUBRIC					
Points	4	3	2	1	SCORE
Opening of show statement	Exciting, clear introduction	Presents the topic	Gives an idea about the topic	Does not introduce topic	
Use of research	Relevant, lots of facts	Mostly relevant, some facts	Some relevancy, some facts	Lacks preparation	
Addressed other position's points	Clear, informed, effective arguments	Some clear, informed, effective arguments	Rarely clear, informed, effective arguments	Does not address other position	
Teamwork	Shared work	One person talked most of the time	One person talked all the time	No one is talking	
Use of voice, diction, gestures	Expressive, easy-to-understand	Somewhat animated, mostly able to be heard	Little animation; difficult to hear	Can't be heard; monotone	
Overall	Prepared, effective, convincing	Sometimes convincing and effective	Rarely convincing and effective	Never convincing and effective	
TOTAL:					

- What parts of the show went really well? Why? What could you do better next time, and how could you prepare prior to the show to make that happen?

## Technology Connection

Arrange for someone to digitally record the performance for an iMovie and/or podcast. Post the performance on the school website for parents, other classes, and community members to enjoy.