

Quiz A: RI.7.1

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

How to Make a Podcast

- 1 Do you crack jokes that keep your friends and family rolling? Are you an expert on a particular subject or event? Do you enjoy interviewing interesting people? Do you ever wish you had a wider audience to listen to your opinions and ideas? Or, are you someone who knows a bunch of incredible people and have a talent at bringing out the best in them? If so, you might want to share these talents through a podcast.
- 2 Podcasts are simply short articles, stories, shows, or interviews that are recorded and saved to a file that can be played on an MP3 player or iPod. Think about listening to the radio, but choosing what information you want them to play, and that is basically the gist of podcasts. There are millions of different podcasts already out there on a wide range of topics from gardening to mixed martial arts (MMA) fighting. Some podcasts are very professional, patching in celebrities and authorities on high-quality equipment, and some are created in a spare room or a basement.
- 3 Here's how to get started creating a podcast:
 - I Come up with an idea. What will make your podcast stand out? What information do you want to share that you don't think is available in a million other places? Perhaps you want to record student poems in your language arts class, or conduct an interview of a local music group.
 - II Plan out the first three podcasts. It might be a good idea to think about how you want to structure your episodes. For example, you could organize them around problems with a topic; if your topic is social relationships, you could have your first three episodes be Frenemies, False Friends, and Birthday Party Etiquette, because each of these explores a problem in the topic. Another way to plan is to center around a particular event, such as a political debate or a sporting event. Think about things you might want to say about the event beforehand so that when you start podcasting, you are knowledgeable about the topic. Still, make sure your ideas aren't entirely prescribed, because you might learn something about yourself or your guests and decide to change your idea.
 - III Find a quiet space. You would be surprised how much noise is around you! Go into a room and hold your breath to hear all the sounds. Can you hear your family members talking to each other in the next room? Can you hear the neighbor's lawn mower? Try to eliminate all the extraneous sounds before you begin podcasting.
 - IV Get podcasting software on a computer. Install it and play around with it. Use it to record a sample cast so you know what you are looking at. You may need to read the manual or use the help feature. When you record a sample, listen for the sound quality. It may be necessary to invest in a microphone or other sound equipment.

