Podcasting Reflections by Students

**The aim of this task is simple**:

For **Part 1**, provide a detailed description of your podcasting experience, including all the stages you went through, everything you did, your feelings throughout the experience, the challenges you went through, and suggestions to overcome these challenges.

For **Part 2**, share your own views about different aspects of the podcasting approach. ===============================================================

Part 1:

1. Describe in detail your podcasting experience in the following 3 phases:

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| Phase 1.  **Describe in detail how you prepared for the podcasting experience?**  (e.g., how you started; resources you used to learn how to create a podcast; what assistance you received in the early stages; etc) |
| First of all , I read the instructions shared with us regarding the podcast project and I understood them very well. Then,I started to think about an interesting topic. I decided to choose a topic related to my theme which is spelling. Then , I chose this topic ( rules and tools to develop your spelling abilities).I started to search on the internet about some rules and I added my own also. After I had finished writing these notes , I started to re-write those notes in an organized way including introduction and conclusion of the podcast.  When I was done with the preparation of the content , I watched some tutorials on youtube about podcasts , some examples of podcasts related to my topic specifically and I focused on the type of background music that were included in those tutorials. In fact all of these tutorials and examples helped me to better pick up some phrases and interesting sentences to be used in the introduction and conclusion stages and make the best choice of the background music. |
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| Phase 2.  **Describe in detail the process of creating the podcast?**  (e.g., tools you used; decisions you made; changes you had to make; etc.) |
| After I have finished finalizing my content, I started recording using the voice memos on my phone. It took me a lot of time to reach the final product because when I made a mistake I re-recorded from the early beginning. It took about a day to end up with the final recording.  Then, I transferred the file to an mp3 file and I imported it in audacity software. I spend a long time editing the audio and adding background music. The software was a little bit complex as it needed a high level of focus and attention because if I made a tiny mistake everything would |

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| be mixed up in terms of the distance between each part of the recording , the quality of the voice, and the rise/decrease of the music and my voice. After many changes I made I reached the final product. |
| Phase 3.  **Describe in detail what you did after you finished the podcast?**  (e.g., evaluating your work; seeking feedback, etc.) |
| After I have finished I exported the podcast and I submitted it.In fact I was not satisfied with the product but I did everything to improve it and every time I made a small change everything mixed up so that I needed to re-edit from the early beginning.So , it was not really very perfect as the quality of voice was not really clear and in some parts there was a space between the music and my voice. I also found out that sometimes my voice level was lower than music level. |

2. What challenges did you face in the three phases?

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| Phase 1.  **What challenges did you face while preparing to create your podcast?**  (e.g., issues with scripting, finding the right resources, lack of motivation, uncertainty, etc.) |
| In fact deciding whether the content (input) is possible to be used as a podcast was a little bit challenging. I also searched a lot in order to find a resource which includes interesting rules related to spelling development and at the same time it should be beneficial and easy to be applied by students.Some of these rules were not practical so , I tried to pick up the practical ones and add my own also. |
| Phase 2.  **What challenges did you face during the process of creating your podcast?**  (e.g., issues with software, time, editing, etc.) |
| Actually editing the audio was very challenging. I spent around five hours editing it and adding background music. Every time I modify something , something else goes wrong. |
| Phase 3.  **What challenges did you face after you finished the podcast?**  (e.g., fixing mistakes, evaluating the podcast, dissatisfaction with the final outcome, exporting the file to MP3, etc.) |

Indeed I faced many challenges here , I was not satisfied with the final product as I felt there was an echo in the audio. I also think that my voice was compressed and I tried to modify it but I couldn't. The process of how the music overlaps with my voice needs to be worked on more. There was a space between my voice and the outer music , I actually paid attention to that when I had finished the editing process.

3. What suggestions do you have to overcome the challenges you faced (if any)?

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| Phase 1.  **What can you suggest to help overcome the challenges faced in phase 1?** |
| I think I need to look for some more podcasts related to my theme which is spelling and look at different aspect launched at these podcasts so that I will have better idea about the type of content that can be included in the podcast plus I need to find another resources which include more simple and practical rules so that even youngers can benefit from them. |
| Phase 2.  **What can you suggest to help overcome the challenges faced in phase 2?** |
| I need to spend more time experiencing audacity software plus making more efforts on learning how to use it effectively through looking at different tutorials and videos so that I will have a chance to try every feature of it ,learn more how to edit and modify mistakes to master the use of it. |
| Phase 3.  **What can you suggest to help overcome the challenges faced in phase 3?** |
| I think I need to watch some additional tutorials on how to make an effective podcast so that I will have an opportunity to look at problems that may occur and the ways of fixing them in terms of if the voice was compressed , if there was an echo. So that I will have a better understanding on how to deal with such issues to produce a satisfying product. |

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Part 2.

1. What do you think about student-generated podcasting as a learning approach?

Podcasting is a type of learning by doing (or experiential learning). **a. What do you think about this type of learning?**

**b. Does it present any challenges to you?**

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| **a**. I think it is a wonderful type of learning as it gives students a chance to experience things around them , learn on their own and be independent learners instead of the total dependence on the teacher . It also provides students with an opportunity to show their abilities , skills , talents and creativity in order to produce the intended outcomes.  **b**. In fact it gives me a chance to experience new things plus being an independent learner. However some challenges may occur. One of them is that if it is something totally new , I will need time to familiarize myself on how to use it and make efforts to understand the whole idea of it so that I will be able to carry on with it.Second thing is that sometimes the allocated time to submit the task which is based on learning by doing is not enough so this may cause worry and even delay in handing in the task on time. |
| Podcasting requires students to create a digital output (or artefact). **a. What do you think about this type of learning?**  **b. Does it present any challenges to you?** |
| **a**. I think producing podcasts requires students to create digital output as this type of learning is beneficial in terms of showing the tutor of the course what a particular student has contributed and added or even modified in the audio to generate the final product. This will give students the chance to add their own touches and show their intelligence and creativity.  **b**.In fact no , by contrast it helps me to show my abilities and skills plus it gives me a chance to experience something new to end up having the final outcome. |
| Podcasting requires a student-centred learning approach. **a. What do you think about this type of learning? b. Does it present any challenges to you?** |
| **a**.I believe that this type of learning is preferred by many students because nowadays learners tend to be more independent instead of being spoon feeded by their teachers.So the teacher will explain the key points only and the students should have the responsibility to watch additional tutorials , familiarize themselves with the software to know how to use it best . Therefore, giving students a task to go through the journey of podcasting will encourage them to show their skills , increase their role by giving them something to contribute in instead of being just listeners and the podcasting task will give them opportunity to apply all what they have learned which lead them to make perfect (**practice makes perfect).**  **b.** Indeed no, it helps me to be an autonomous learner who is taking more roles in order to achieve the desired outcome. |
| Podcasting requires learning through technology.  **a. What do you think about this type of learning? b. Does it present any challenges to you?** |
| **a**.I totally agree with this type of learning , podcast is a kind of task that enhances the process of learning through technology by allowing students to apply what they have gained or learned using technology which is basically podcast. I also believe that learners should be a good user of technology in order to be able to deal with audacity software to create the final podcast.So technology really matters through the podcasting journey. |

**b.** I think no, however some parts throughout the podcasting journey require professional users of technology in general and audacity software in particular to be able to deal with any issue that may occur and which affect negatively on the quality of the final product.