

## Podcasting

**NOTE:** For the sake of simplicity, we will focus on **audio podcasts**, but the concepts apply to **video podcasts** as well.

### Introduction

A **podcast** is sort of like an **online radio show**, except the listeners get to decide **when and where** they want to listen.

The term "podcast" *stands for Portable On-Demand Broadcast*. And you **DON'T NEED an iPod** to listen to or create a podcast! Having an iPod (or similar portable device) simply makes listening to podcasts (and other media, such as music, audiobooks and videos) really convenient. (Of course, there are tons of ways to use [iPods in education](#)).

An audio file published to the web does **not** qualify as a **podcast**. A podcast consists of an audio file (typically MP3 format) published to the web **PLUS** an **RSS feed** (XML file). The RSS feed **allows listeners to subscribe** to the podcast and to **automatically receive** new episodes in a special type of RSS reader called a **podcatcher**. In addition to managing your podcast subscriptions and playing the media files, podcatchers can also help you **transfer your podcasts** to your media player. The most popular podcatcher is [iTunes](#), a free program designed to work with iPods, but which also serves as a **general media player** and **organizer**, and a huge, searchable **podcast directory**.

**Good to know:** You can subscribe to and play podcasts in your [Google Reader](#), but it can't help you transfer your media files onto your portable player. If you just want to **listen to podcasts on your computer**, Google Reader is actually a great option, because it just points to the podcast files so that you can play them in the reader, whereas a true podcatcher such as iTunes actually **DOWNLOADS** the media files to your hard drive.

## Review of Google Reader

### Find and subscribe to a podcast.

Find a podcast (or two) that interests you (see "**Where do I find podcasts?**" below) -- ideally, related to your teaching/professional role -- and subscribe to it using your [Google Reader](#). (Locate the **RSS** or **Subscribe** icon and click it, then select your **Google Reader**, or **copy and paste the feed URL** into the **Subscribe field** in your **Google Reader**). Listen to a bit of your subscription(s).

### **Optional: (at home)**

**Download and install iTunes.** Find and subscribe to one or more podcasts of professional interest using iTunes. You can add **any podcast feed** to iTunes (even if it's not listed in the iTunes Store -- see "**Where do I find podcasts?**" below) by copying the podcast feed URL, then opening iTunes and selecting **Advanced > Subscribe to Podcast** and pasting the URL). Listen to a bit of your subscription(s).

### **Help Resources for iTunes:**

[Get iTunes 8](#) - You do not need to provide your email address -- just UNcheck the email alert boxes!

Apple iTunes Tutorial: [Get Free Podcasts](#) (~2 min)

### **Where do I find podcasts?**

[iTunes Store](#) (requires download and installation of iTunes -- you are NOT required to install iTunes. - Like it or not, the iTunes Store is the "mother of all" of podcasting directories, offering a catalog of gazillions (estimated) of FREE podcast titles, including over 10,000 titles specific to education.

[Education Podcast Network](#) - A directory of about 2,000 education-themed podcasts, organized by subject area.

[Learn Out Loud](#) - A directory of about 1500 free "podcasts you can learn from."

[NPR Podcast Directory](#) - A directory of 619 high-quality podcasts from National Public Radio and affiliates.

[Skip the Tuition: 100 Free Podcasts from the Best Colleges in the World](#)

[PBS Podcasts](#) - About thirty quality video podcasts from PBS.

### **Additional Resources**

Learning in Hand - [Podcasting in the classroom](#)

Apple - [Podcasting in Education](#)

Get started podcasting with [Audacity and other free tools](#).

OEDb - [100 Ways to Use Your iPod to Learn and Study Better](#)

## **Video Sharing**

### **Introduction**

Teachers have been using video to supplement classroom instruction for decades. Online video sharing makes classroom video use cheaper, more convenient, and more customized, as long as you can find quality content amidst the junk. Like other Web 2.0 tools, video sharing sites enable users (for better or worse) to easily publish content to the web.

As you explore TeacherTube you will encounter many familiar Web 2.0 features, such as RSS feeds, user comments/ratings, groups, and, of course, tags.

**Explore TeacherTube** [TeacherTube](#), launched in March 2007, aims to provide a more educationally focused, safe venue for teachers, schools, and home learners to share instructional videos and student media projects. TeacherTube currently offers free unlimited uploading of educational video. TeacherTube relies on its user community to keep the site student-safe by flagging inappropriate content.

**Check out [TeacherTube](#) with an eye for PRODUCING content.** Possibly the most powerful potential for video sharing to support teaching and learning is to contribute original content. What types of projects might you or your students contribute to TeacherTube?

## **Online Conferences**

### **Introduction**

On October 20, 2008, the third annual [K-12 Online Conference](#) was held.

The K-12 Online Conference "invites participation from educators around the world interested in innovative ways Web 2.0 tools and technologies can be used to improve learning. This FREE conference is run by volunteers and open to everyone. The 2008 conference theme was "*Amplifying Possibilities*." Forty multimedia presentations (typically videos) with accompanying resources were posted online to the conference blog for participants to download and view.

The 2007 conference theme was "Playing with Boundaries," and over **50,000 educators worldwide** participated. The sessions, which may be viewed online or downloaded anytime, remain available on the web for anyone to "attend." **It's a conference that never closes.**

Visit the [K12 Online Conference](#) site and attend a presentation of your choice. Sessions were presented in four categories: *Getting Started*, *Kicking it Up a Notch*, *Leading the Change* and *Prove It*. Each strand contains ten archived presentations.

**Pick a session that seems interesting/compelling to you, view the presentation and explore the supporting links or resources and see what you can learn! Be sure to view the included "essential questions," even if you do not wish to leave a Voicethread response.**

Now that you are aware of the [K12 Online Conference](#), I hope you will return to this resource for future learning, that you will "attend" the 2009 conference next October, and visit the archived sessions for 2006-08 when you have time and interest.. Please share this wonderful resource with your colleagues.

See instructions below for help in navigating the [K12 Online Conference](#) site.

The easiest way to **locate a session** is to click one of the **categories** listed under **2008** on the right sidebar of the blog. (The sidebar is present on every page of the site).

**NOTE:** You will see the archived links for 2006 and 2007 as well

Under each category (for example, "Getting Started"), you will find several **blog posts** listing presentation titles, presenter information and a session description.

Click a **post/session title** to view the full session page, where you will find a full session description, and links to stream or download the presentation (typically in video format).

Many sessions will provide accompanying resources (such as a companion wiki site or related links) as supporting content for the presentation.

New in 2008: Each session post also includes a Voicethread containing three essential questions for participants to consider.

On the **main session page**, you will find links for viewing (or listening to) the online presentation.

**NOTE: Session lengths vary, but for 2008, session videos have been capped at a maximum of 20 minutes (Keynote presentations will be longer).** You should see a video "run time" or length listed next to the presentation link.

## **Homework:**

Post to the Gottech blog "Podcasting and Video Sharing" how you could use podcasting and/or video sharing in your classroom.

Attend an online conference. Post to the Gottech "Conferencing in your PJ's" blog about your session.

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Adapted from:

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