

Make a Narrative Episode in 7 Steps

1. Identify your story

- Do you have a Making or Maker story you want to share with others?

2. Research

- Include relevant and accurate details to give depth to your story (narrative).
- Avoid plagiarism by giving credit to sources of information during the show or in the show notes. Check out the below articles on how to avoid plagiarism in your podcast:
 - [How to Avoid Podcast Plagiarism](#)
 - [Are Podcasts a Disaster Waiting to Happen?](#)
- Need help finding information and how to give credit to sources? Ask a librarian @ lib.purdue.edu.

3. Conduct interviews

- Go the extra mile and reach out to the original creators. Call or email the Maker(s) you are telling the story about, or your collaborators, to interview them.
 - Prepare questions and share them before the interview. Think about what you most want to know and ask questions around that.

4. Write the script

- Organize your story through writing a script.
- Grab your audience with a hook to open the story.
 - Check out the below scripts for examples of how to organize your podcast episode:
 - [Tracy Edwards: What Can a Sailboat Teach You That a Classroom Can't](#)
 - Notice the story starts out with hook when the person being interviewed says, "I am an around the world sailor and social activist."
 - [Crumpet the Elf Reads from Santaland Diaries](#)
 - Notice the story starts out with a hook when the storyteller says: "I wear green, velvet knickers, a forest green velvet smock and a perky little hat decorated with spangles. This is my work uniform."
- Practice, practice, practice. Once written, walk through your script to help work out the kinks before you record. Read it out loud to suit your "voice" or natural dialogue.

5. Add atmosphere

- Identify & collect additional elements (ambient, archival, music, etc.) to include in your episode.

- Keep it simple and use sound effects and music where you don't have to worry about copyright infringement.
 - Pay a musician friend to make music for your podcast and give her or him credit in the show notes.
 - Use sound effects and music from sites that give you permission as long as you give them credit in your show or show notes, such the [BBC Sounds Effects](#) site and the [Free Music Archive](#).

6. Edit

- Upload your audio files with free online software, such as [Audacity](#), and always backup your files.

7. Market

- Post about your narrative on social media, Reddit, and podcasting groups.
- Get involved in Maker communities or any communities you think want to hear your story.
- When you conducted an interview(s), let your audience (and interviewee!) know when your podcast episode has been published and ask them to share with their friends and colleagues.