

Using Podcasts and News Stories in Class

Why Should I Use Them?

- Real world examples pique students' interest and help them see *why* they're learning how to research FCIL topics.
- They appeal to auditory learners.
- It's less time you have to spend talking yourself.
- Students can listen to them before class time.
- They often feature non-law and non-U.S. perspectives on an issue.

Where Can I Get My Content?

- Two great sources are:
 - BBC World Service (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldserviceradio>)
 - Abundant, varied programming (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldserviceradio/programmes/a-z>)
 - You can stream recent (7 days) content or download broadcasts as a podcast (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/worldservice>).
 - NPR (<http://www.npr.org/>)
 - News and humanities related programming (<http://www.npr.org/programs/>)
 - 24 Hour streaming (<http://www.npr.org/player/v2/mediaPlayer.html?action=3&t=live1&islist=false>)
 - Download content as a podcast (http://www.npr.org/rss/podcast/podcast_directory.php)

Can You Give Me Some Examples?

- *Science in Action* (BBC World Service)
 - L'Aquila Verdict (Italian scientists convicted after earthquake)
- *The Fifth Floor* (BBC World Service)
 - Cuba No Longer Requiring Exit Visas (Journalists recounting stories of times they were unable to leave a country)

What About the Technical Stuff?

- Streaming is great for recent stories (especially if you can't download files onto your computer for any reason).
- Downloading is always recommended, though, as many items are only available for a limited time (e.g. 7 days for streaming or 30 days to download).
- Sometimes you'll be able to get an .mp3 file, which you can play easily on many computers, but you may also be limited to a proprietary file format too (like iTunes) so you might need a particular program for playback.
- Make sure your classroom is equipped with speakers that play loud enough for everyone to hear.