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# Lesson Plan: Mission: Podcast - Mastering the Art of Extracting Information

## Materials Needed:

- Computer with internet access
  - A notebook and pen, or a word processing program (like Google Docs)
  - Access to a few high-interest news websites for teens (e.g., Science News Explores, The New York Times Learning Network, National Geographic)
  - (Optional) Headset with a microphone
  - (Optional) Access to a simple, free audio recorder (like Vocaroo.com or Audacity software)
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## 1. Learning Objectives

By the end of this 60-minute lesson, the student will be able to:

- **Identify** the key components of an informational text using the "5 Ws and H" strategy (Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How).
- **Extract** the most significant information from a news article on a topic of their choice.
- **Synthesize** the extracted information to create a concise and engaging 1-minute podcast script.

## 2. Alignment with Standards and Curriculum

- **Competency:** EN10INF-II-4: Extract significant information.
- This lesson directly addresses the competency by moving beyond simple identification to practical application, ensuring the student can not only find but also use significant information effectively.

## 3. Instructional Strategies & Lesson Flow

### Part 1: The Hook - Welcome to the Producer's Chair (5 minutes)

- **Teacher:** "Have you ever listened to a news podcast or a YouTube update that gets right to the point? Good reporters know how to grab the most important facts and deliver them fast. Today, you're not just a student; you're a podcast producer. Your mission is to take a news story and turn it into a compelling 1-minute audio segment. But first, you need the number one tool of every great journalist."

### Part 2: The Tool Kit - Introducing the 5 Ws and H (10 minutes)

- **Teacher:** "The secret is a simple but powerful tool: The 5 Ws and H."
  - Write down or display the following prompts:
    - **WHO** is this about? (The people, groups, or organizations involved)
    - **WHAT** happened? (The main event or key action)
    - **WHEN** did it happen? (The date, time, or time frame)
    - **WHERE** did it happen? (The location)
    - **WHY** is this important? (The reason, the cause, or the significance)
    - **HOW** did it happen? (The process or method)
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- **Modeling:** Quickly read a very short, interesting news blurb together (e.g., "Scientists at MIT announced yesterday they have developed a new type of battery that can charge a phone in 60 seconds by using a novel polymer compound."). Then, model how to extract the information:
  - **Who?** Scientists at MIT.
  - **What?** Developed a battery that charges a phone in 60 seconds.
  - **When?** Yesterday.
  - **Where?** At MIT.
  - **Why?** To create much faster charging technology.
  - **How?** By using a new polymer compound.

### Part 3: The Main Mission - Produce Your Podcast Segment (35 minutes)

1. **Choose Your Beat (5 mins):** The student browses one of the recommended news sites and chooses an article on a topic they find genuinely interesting (e.g., a new video game, a space mission, a discovery about animals, a new movie). The choice empowers the student and guarantees engagement.
2. **Gather Your Intel (10 mins):** Using a notebook or a new document, the student reads their chosen article with a clear goal: to find the answers to the 5 Ws and H. They will write down the key information for each prompt. This is the core "extraction" part of the lesson.
3. **Write Your Script (15 mins):** Now, the student acts as the producer. They will use their notes to write a script for a 1-minute podcast segment (about 150-160 words). Provide this simple structure:
  - **The Hook (1 sentence):** A catchy opening to grab the listener's attention. (e.g., "Ever wish your phone could charge in the time it takes to tie your shoes? Well, that future might be closer than you think.")
  - **The Core Story (3-4 sentences):** Present the 5 Ws and H in a clear, logical order. This is where they synthesize their notes into smooth prose.
  - **The Outro (1 sentence):** A concluding thought that explains why this story matters. (e.g., "This breakthrough could change how we use all of our devices, from phones to electric cars.")
4. **(Optional) Record Your Segment (5 mins):** If the student is comfortable, have them read their script aloud and record it using a simple online tool like Vocaroo. This adds a fun, creative layer and helps them hear if their writing is clear and concise.

### Part 4: Aircheck - Review and Reflect (10 minutes)

- The student shares their script (or plays their recording).
- **Assessment Discussion:**
  - "Did your script capture all the essential information? Let's check it against your 5 Ws and H notes."
  - "What was the most challenging piece of information to find in the article?"
  - "How did the 5 Ws and H framework help you ignore the less important details?"
- **Teacher:** "Fantastic work. This skill isn't just for podcasting. You can use it to study for a test, understand complex topics quickly, and even spot 'fake news,' which often leaves out important 'W' questions like 'Where' or 'When'."

## 4. Differentiation and Inclusivity

- **For Support:** Provide an article that is pre-selected and clearly structured. Offer a fill-in-the-blank script template to help with organization.
- **For a Challenge:** Ask the student to find two articles on the same topic and extract the key information from both to create a script that compares the two reports. Or, challenge them to

create a 30-second version of their script, forcing even greater conciseness.

- **Inclusivity:** By allowing the student to choose their own article, the lesson validates their personal interests and ensures the content is relevant and engaging to them.

## 5. Assessment Methods

- **Formative (During the lesson):** Observing the student's ability to identify the 5 Ws and H during the guided practice and their note-taking process.
- **Summative (End of lesson):** The completed podcast script serves as the primary assessment. It is evaluated based on:
  1. **Accuracy:** Does the script correctly represent the most significant facts from the article?
  2. **Completeness:** Are the key 5 Ws and H addressed?
  3. **Clarity & Conciseness:** Is the information presented in a way that is easy for a listener to understand and free of unnecessary jargon or fluff?

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