

SOFTWARE, APPS, PROGRAMS

Recording equipment

Recording equipment can be as inexpensive as using a smartphone and as expensive as you have money to spend on recorders and microphones. See [here](#) for basic tips on getting good audio from whatever source you use.

The absolute best audio quality will be with a dedicated audio recorder and a quality external mic. Get a recorder with the three-prong male/female XLR connectors because they are more stable than ones with quarter-inch plugs (like a headphone plug). Check out transom.org for its reviews of recorders and microphones.



Tape syncs

Tape sync is a term used for recording someone in a different location than the interviewer -- either by using a third person to record the interviewee or using a smartphone.

Click [here](#) for an article from Transom.org on in-person tape syncs.

Click [here](#) for a video from KJZZ on how to instruct someone to use their smartphone to record themselves and send it to you.

Students can also enlist people to record sound on their smartphones and send it to them via email if the file isn't too big, or using Dropbox, Google Drive or WeTransfer.

Recording cell phone calls

*NOTE: Each state has its own laws on consent for recording phone conversations. This [website](#) has a breakdown of laws in each state. (If your students do international calls, you should also check on the laws of that country.)

Mobile phone conversations do not yield good audio quality and should only be used if:
a) you have no other option available; b) you are using a small amount of the recording;
c) it is a story device in the podcast to connote distance.

Here are two popular apps you can use for recording cell phones:

For iPhones: [TapeACall Pro](#)

For Androids: [Call Recorder](#)

Computer-based recording

There are now a host of programs you can use for remote interviews that approach studio quality where all you need is a computer and a stable internet connection. Educators became all too familiar with Zoom during the shelter-in-place orders this year, and you can record your Zoom session, then use only the audio from the recording. There are other programs for audio-only where the internet connection can be more stable, that can record as mp3 files or wav files, and that record each person on separate tracks, but combine the two as an output. Many of these programs work best with Chrome and Firefox browsers. Below are a few common programs.

[Zencastr](#): Free and paid plans

[Ringr](#): Paid plans only. Works on desktop computers and mobile devices

[SquadCast](#): Free 7-day trial; can record up to four people at once. Works on desktops and Android devices.

[Cleanfeed](#): Free and works on desktops and Android devices. It also has a Pro account.

Recording sound from the internet

If your students want to download audio from the internet (music, archival audio, news reports, sound effects, etc.) programs like those below make it easy.

[Audio Hijack](#): Mac -- Free version and paid version \$59.

[Total Recorder](#): Windows -- Basic version \$17.95.

Audio editing software

Adobe Audition is a great editing software program, but beyond a free seven-day trial, it costs some bucks. But there are some free or low-cost programs out there.

Many phone apps, including voice memo apps, have basic editing features in them if students are making just a few simple “cuts” or edits. For slightly more complex editing or mixing (i.e. layering sounds, such as music under a narration) an editing program is better.

[Audacity](#): Open source software that works on Windows and Macs

[GarageBand](#): This program comes with Mac computers so many of your students may already have it.

[Reaper](#): \$60 for educational institutions. Reaper has an [online tutorial](#).

Podcast hosting

Now that your students have made their podcast, put it out there for people to hear.

There are a number of hosting services that you can use to create an [RSS](#) feed to put your podcast on any platform network, such as Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Stitcher, Spotify, etc. See [Podcast Insights](#) for information on some of the top hosting sites.

If you want to keep it simple, there are some good, free options for creating and hosting podcasts:

[SoundCloud](#): Your podcast can just live on SoundCloud if you don't care about putting it on a directory network (such as Apple Podcasts, Stitcher). Here is the link to SoundCloud's instructions for creating the RSS feed:

<https://blog.soundcloud.com/2018/05/30/host-podcast-soundcloud/>

[Anchor](#) free app you can use to create and distribute a podcast.