Listening to Podcasts in the History Classroom

Methodologies and ideas:

- Assign students a podcast episode on a particular topic in history and have them take notes on the information presented.
- Have students listen to a podcast episode and then create a list of questions they have about the topic.
- Divide students into groups and have them listen to different podcasts on the same topic. Then, have them compare and contrast the information presented and discuss any similarities or differences.
- Assign students a podcast episode and have them fact-check the information presented using other sources.
- Compare and contrast two podcast episodes where the same topic is discussed by different guests.
- Use an episode as a supplement or additional resource for homework.
- Ask students to work in pairs or groups to prepare a list of questions before listening to the episode. Then, encourage them to listen to the podcast or review the transcript to find the answers to the questions. Send unanswered questions to the host (or guest) or post them to social media to encourage others to submit their responses.
- Start class by playing a podcast episode (or clip of an episode) to start a class discussion or activity.
- Assign a controversial episode. Ask students to listen to it before class and come prepared with specific references or justifications to refute or support the points being made by the presenter.
- Ask students to listen to the episode and then post three comments (on your shared space) they found most interesting/provocative/important. Make sure students add a time stamp to their comments so you and other students can quickly find and re-listen to that part of the episode.
- Encourage students to recommend a podcast or specific episode related to the course material. Share their recommendations on the course website.
- Ask students to post their favourite quote from the entire episode. They can choose ONLY ONE quote and then explain why it resonated with them and what it means in relation to the subject material.
- Invite the host (or guest) of the podcast to do a Skype or Zoom interview with your students. Ask students to prepare questions in advanced or highlight talking points they'd like to follow up on with the host or interviewee.
- Have students create their own podcast episode on a topic in History and present it to the class.