



Educator Q&A

1. *Why should I use a podcast as part of my teaching?*

Podcasts can be a powerful tool to introduce new concepts and/or reinforce classroom learning. Some of the benefits of using podcasts are that they (a) engage students in a different way of learning than textbooks, articles, or lectures; (b) are accessed using a variety of devices and apps; (c) can be listened to while commuting; and (d) are free. Podcasts are also a great way to expose us to new perspectives and to learn about the experiences of others.

2. *How does the podcast help students learn about diversity and social and economic justice?*

The people interviewed on the podcast are on the frontlines of social change in their communities. Each episode discusses the very real challenges of working for social change on multiple levels. The populations and topics are diverse, so listeners are exposed to real life strategies of how to work on micro, mezzo, and macro levels with diverse populations who are marginalized and oppressed. Additionally, self-awareness and self-reflection are critical skills needed by social workers to provide effective practice, particularly cross-cultural practice. These podcast episodes and corresponding questions can help students examine their own biases and imagine themselves in the role of a social worker with the diverse populations discussed.

3. *What has been the response from students?*

Students really enjoy the podcast! The number one response, which was not something originally envisioned, is that students say they never realized the number of roles available to social workers. This response has primarily been from MSW and BSSW students already in the field practicum, so there could be an even greater impact in courses such as Intro to Social Work or Diversity. Students often say that they appreciate being able to hear the stories of real people who are struggling to create change, because the students feel they are not alone and can relate to those interviewed. Additionally, students have shared that there is often a gap between the textbook and the field experience, but that the stories on the podcast help bridge that gap because they discuss “how it really is out there.”



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