

# THE BARNUM PROJECT

**PROJECT OVERVIEW:** Research, write, record, and edit an entertaining but historically accurate podcast featuring an episode from or aspect of the life of P. T. Barnum. Our podcasts will be published at:

<http://americancarnival.podbean.com/>

This project will consist of the following parts:

<p>The Podcast: a 4-5 minute MP3 recording, delivered to me electronically</p>	<p>The written transcript of the podcast’s script – submitted electronically as a Word or PDF document. The final page(s) of the podcast transcript should be a “Works Cited List” ↓</p>
<p>A 1-2 page reflection about the assignment, submitted electronically as a Word or PDF document</p>	<p>A “Works Cited” list in proper MLA format that includes the sources of information, and a COMPLETE list of any music, sound effects, or other sound files incorporated into the broadcast. It should also include a citation for your image. ↓</p>
<p>Participation in the “Poster Day” on December 10, where we will debut our podcast to the campus community</p>	<p>One photographic image we can use to promote/illustrate your podcast. The image must be 1) owned by you, or 2) in the public domain, or 3) usable under Creative Commons license. You cannot use a copyrighted or CC “All Rights Reserved” image, or one for which you cannot establish any ownership.</p>

Over several class periods in November we will research the life of P. T. Barnum from primary, secondary and photographic sources. Each person will develop her or his own story drawing on these sources. Your script, in its final form, will be about 2-3 double-spaced pages long.

## PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS

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You’ll need your finished script (1 double-spaced page takes about 2 minutes to read out loud).

Mac users: you can opt to use GarageBand to do this project

If you don’t have access to GarageBand or don’t want to use that program, download the free software called “Audacity” from [audacity.sourceforge.net](http://audacity.sourceforge.net)

You will also need the LAME encoder to export your Audacity file into MP3 format:

[http://manual.audacityteam.org/o/man/faq\\_installation\\_and\\_plug\\_ins.html#lame](http://manual.audacityteam.org/o/man/faq_installation_and_plug_ins.html#lame)

Check out any of the free tutorials I've linked on the Barnum Project resource page to learn the basics about how to use Audacity. Record your script using your laptop's microphone or (better yet) borrow a higher-quality USB microphone to use. If you get really stuck on this step, come visit me during office hours with laptop in hand, so we can troubleshoot. Save your recorded voice track as an Audacity project file.

To add color, life and entertainment value to your podcast, use music or sound effects by adding additional tracks in your saved Audacity file. These tracks CANNOT borrow from copyrighted material. **If you use copyrighted material, your project will get a zero.** See the course website resource page for links to sources free, legal and/or Creative Commons licensed audio you can use.

Once your podcast sounds the way you want, save it, and then export it as an MP3 file.

Add Works Cited page(s) to your transcript including ALL sources for information and sounds used in the podcast.

Select an image we can use to accompany your episode online, preferably one with reasonably high resolution (in .jpg or .png format). The image must be 1) owned by you, or 2) in the public domain, or 3) usable under Creative Commons license. You cannot use a copyrighted or CC "All rights reserved" image, or one for which you cannot establish any ownership.

Lastly, write a 1-2 page reflection paper addressing these questions: What did you learn from this project about research and scholarship in the humanities? What problems, challenges or triumphs did you encounter in telling a good story? What did you learn from the process of creating a podcast? What skills have you built or strengthened through this project? Which of the course learning outcomes has it addressed for you?

## **DUE DATES**

Tues 11/25 Script rough draft – bring to class for peer editing

Tues 12/2 Final script and podcast "beta version"

Thurs 12/4 Electronic submission of podcast final version + image + transcript and Works Cited + reflection paper

Wed 12/10 All podcast episodes should be finished, uploaded, marketed with their images and ready for our campus grand opening at Poster Day. Attend and participate in the Reading Day FYS Poster Event activities.

## **GRADING: WORTH 30 % OF YOUR GRADE**

15% for script, references and reflection

10% for actual podcast final product

5% for participation in Poster Presentation on Reading Day