

Creating an audio postcard and posting it on a podcast hosting site

Thierry Soubrié, e-lang citizen team

Teacher Sheet

Task

Your students will be given the following task.

You want to share your travel impressions, the emotions and feelings you feel in a place you are attached to, or even talk about the different moments that make up your day.

To do this, you are going to make an audio postcard, a genre that mixes voices and sounds present in your environment. This will require you to pay close attention to your soundscape. You will have to record sounds and combine them with a personal comment. You will then publish it on a podcast hosting site of your choice.

Websites

[Audioblog d'ArteRadio](#) (before posting you need to create an audioblog on the site) or [SoundCloud](#) are sites where you can listen to and upload audio postcards. Audioblogs are spaces on a server where people can upload and distribute their audio files.

We can access a selection of audio postcards in French: <https://soundcloud.com/sutheland/sets/cartes-postales-sonores>.

Soundbanks (if required): [BBC Sound Effects](#), [La sonothèque](#).

CEFR level - For A2 level and above

Objectives

Digital citizenship and literacy

	Dimensions addressed	Possible specific objectives
Digital citizenship	Ethical and responsible	Use sounds that you have recorded yourself in your environment or retrieved from copyright-free sound banks.
Technological literacy		Use sound editing software. Discover different ways of sharing a podcast (see, for example, "Podcast, mode d'emploi" in the audioblog of ArteRadio - in French).
Meaning-making literacy	Media literacy	Become familiar with this digital genre, identifying and respecting its characteristics.

Main language activity

- Oral production: recording the audio postcards.
- Written production: writing the synopsis.

Intercultural/Multilingual aspects

An audio postcard can take the form of a diary in which the emotions felt while discovering another country and/or culture are reported. It can also mix several languages, especially if they are present in the environment.

Possible steps

The steps below can be considered in a different order than the one suggested. Depending on the level of the learners, some may be omitted.

- Get learners to listen to sounds picked up outside the school and ask them to identify them. These may have been recorded by the teacher or by the learners themselves. What are they? Where were the sounds recorded?
- Discover the audio postcard genre. The discovery of this social practice can be carried out from different sources. Who are the authors of the audio postcards? What are their goals?

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Student Sheet

Task

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Objectives

Digital citizenship and literacy

While completing this task, you can:

- be more attentive to your surroundings;
- learn to mix personal voice-over and soundscape/background noise and find a balance between the two;

- change the way you (and others) perceive the world;
- understand that the interplay between words/voices and sounds is a powerful tool for creativity and for conveying meaning.

Intercultural/Multilingual aspects

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Hints

Keep in mind who you are addressing

There is no ideal or essential platform for the publication of sound postcards. They are generally published on podcast hosting sites, personal sites or even the website of radio stations, often in the context of competitions. The creation of an audio postcard is, above all, a writing and editing activity, where the sounds captured and the writing process feed off each other. There is no specific audience for this type of production. It is up to you to imagine your audience and to develop their interest, for example during a stay abroad or, once you have returned, by regularly publishing impressions of your trip.

Work on the language-related aspects

The audio postcard is a relatively loose genre, with very few set norms. You can express yourself whatever your language level, even if only through sound editing (some audio postcards contain no voice-over, just recorded sounds). They are generally short, a minute or two can be enough. A few words can also be enough. But an audio postcard can also take the form of a report, in which you can express yourself more, presenting more elaborate thoughts. Finally, the postcard lends itself very well to poetry writing! It is up to you to adopt the genre that suits you.

For you to think about

While completing this task, you can reflect on the following:

- Has your perception of the world changed?
- Do you think you are more aware of sounds around you?
- How do you see audio postcards in relation to other forms of online participation in which you may already engage (common features, main differences)?