

Why podcast?

Simply put, because it can be done at the same time as doing something else. It therefore radically increases the amount of time available for learning, expanding, staying abreast.

"Reading" is a sedentary, uni-task "activity". While podcasting can be done while actually doing other activities. The act of exercising or just movement (folding laundry for example) enhances attention and brain activity, making the material even more "stick-able".

Here is an incomplete list (because it is expanding daily) of podcasts related to politics and world affairs:

Today Explained

*From the Vox crowd---comments and analysis of current events

New Yorker Politics and More

*New Yorker, nothing more needs saying

Trump Watch

*Biweekly investigative reporting and commentary on various aspects of Trump policy from recognized experts, for example Seymour Hersh, Yanis Varoufakis, Tom Engelhardt

Stay Tuned with Preet

*Commentary and analysis from Preet Bharara, former US Attorney for the Southern District

FiveThirtyEight Politics

*Analysis from the stats crowd, usually led by Nate Silver

Live at Politics and Prose

*Authors give talks at well-known book store in DC; Robert Kuttner who started American Prospect magazine w/ Robert Reich was last speaker

Aspen Insight

*Speakers from Aspen Ideas on various topics; latest was "Using Music to Tackle Hate"

Politico's Off Message

*Discussions and interviews on current topics; interviews w/ Tom Steyer, Jimmy Carter, Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan, etc

Trump, Inc

*Investigative reporting on various aspects of Trump business ventures/misadventures

Conversations with Tyler

*Tyler Cowen, economist, interviews "deepest thinkers" on wide range of topics; last episode w/ David Brooks

FRDH

*BBC documentarist and historian, Michael Goldfarb, explores current topics w/ historical perspectives; recent episode Iran and the pull out

Thinking CAP

*Podcast from Center for American Progress, which does research on progressive public policy, founded by John Podesta; recent episode: Senator Blumenthal on corruption

The Atlantic Interview

*Wonderful Jeffrey Goldberg, editor, interviews amazing people; recent interview w/ Yossi Klein Halevi, progressive Israeli, about peace solutions

Civics 101

*Weekly on topics of government, constitution, legislation; all excellent

How I Built This

*NPR's Guy Raz interviews and explores the topic of business "invention" in US

Political Junkie

*Ken Rudin, NPR analyst, comments and interviews on current happenings

Laura Flanders Show

*Fairly leftist host explores progressive issues; latest show on Reverend William Barber who started Moral Mondays, and is leading the Poor People's Campaign

Embedded

*Excellent Investigative reporting on a range of topics; just explored was "Coal Country" in 5 episodes

To the Point

*Warren Olney studies timely topics in a well edited summary which includes interviews w/ all the relevant people on the topic; packed, no wasted words; recent episode, very good: Politics of Prison reform.

Make Me Smart

*If you like Kai Rizzal from NPR Marketplace, you'll love this podcast; basically asking the question how to make capitalism/market economy benefit everybody. "Confronting Capitalism", an early excellent episode. Latest a critical interview w/ Ajit Pai on net neutrality

The World in Words

*Super interesting studies of language, if that interests you.

Ezra Klein Show

*Who started Vox, does interviews and struggles w/ tough issues; recent episode w/ Jane Mayer

Constitutional

*Highly recommended series on the history and struggles developing and interpreting the Constitution; really a course on the Constitution; last episode wound up in February; totally worth downloading and listening to the whole series, over and over

Lawfare

*Various issues having to do w/ current administration and our system of American law; very good

Worldly

*Vox issued weekly commentary; this week of course about Kim-Trump summit

Radio Atlantic

*More from venerable journalism, usually led by Jeffrey Goldberg; latest podcast studies racial inequities in health care

The Daily

*NYT podcast on what's important to know; daily in depth study of some current topic; Asylum on tap today

Pod Save America

*Funny back and forth from Jon Favreau, Dan Pfeiffer, Jon Lovett, Tommy Vietor, all former Pres. Obama aides, w/ other guests; casual w/ irony, sarcasm

Compass

*From the BBC folks; documentaries geographically oriented; recent episodes on abortion status in various states; another on the power of English language in the world

Intercepted

*Jeremy Scahill, mostly focused on war/war issues in the world; very critical of US involvement in various conflicts around the world; thorough

Can He Do That?

*Basically can Trump get away w yet another breach of norms/laws/protocol, etc. Highly recommended; fast paced, good editing

Cape Up

*Jonathan Capehart from Washington Post does interviews; latest w/ Sen. Tim Kaine

Hidden Brain

*If you miss it on NPR; great studies about our strange and surprising neurology/psychology

The Axe Files w David Axelrod

*Former chief strategist and advisor to President Obama does interviews; casual and relaxed pace

Aspen Ideas to Go

*Excellent selections from Aspen Institute covering a range of topics; Race, Youth and the American Vote is the latest

Reveal

*Al Letson and his excellent investigative reporting, if you missed it on NPR; Immigration latest episode

Revisionist History

*Malcolm Gladwell serves up some surprising twists to what otherwise would have been accepted misconceptions

Life of the Law

*Excellent coverage of timely legal topics

Educate

*For anyone interested in education: our American system, state of schools, theories of learning; highly recommended; fast paced, well edited

Sea Change Radio

*Environment; very good; latest interview w/ Gavin Newsom; covers renewables, regenerative agriculture, fisheries, population, cities, etc; it's great

Freakonomics

*Steven Dubner and Steve Levitt explore twists and turns of economic theory, practice and human behavior

Documentary

*BBC; they go everywhere and look at everything; well edited; super interesting; well done, like everything from BBC; latest episode on fire that killed 400 children in a "Home" in Guatemala w/ a look at child care in general in Guatemala

Fareed Zakaria

*If you miss him on CNN you can listen to podcast

Monocle Globalist

*News from a global perspective; excellent offering from Monocle, which also has a daily Briefing, Entrepreneurs, and Urbanist podcasts for those interested; Monocle is also an excellent magazine

World Affairs

*Podcasts from World Affairs Council of Bay Area, endless number of timely speakers; if you miss the broadcast on NPR, you can hear it here

Commonwealth Club

*Same as World Affairs

And of course if you miss many of the other great NPR shows, you can podcast; This American Life, Radiolab, Fresh Air, TED radio hour, To the Best of our Knowledge, Planet Money

6/18 Tina Rude