

## Noctiluca Presents: Radio Lab Lesson Plan

**Target Age:** Older high school and university students. Limited to a small group of five. Ideally extracurricular but could involve a “breakout session” from an existing writing class or workshop.

**Prior Learning and Rationale:** Noctiluca will work with students who have been enrolled in creative writing electives or working on writing in some form (personal statement essays, school newspaper).

**KLA (s):** Writing  
Technology  
Narrative Thinking  
Creative Storytelling  
The Arts

**Outcomes & Indicators:** Noctiluca will work with students to adapt an existing writing piece to a podcast or radio format. Over a series of workshops, students will first imagine whether their piece might need any changes before being “read aloud.” Noctiluca artists will then help the students through the recording and editing process. As a final step, students will be encouraged to imagine an “immersive sound world” that can help their piece come to life, through background and filler music as well as accompanying sound effects and field recordings. Noctiluca will help students edit everything together into a cohesive radio format and record musical excerpts for the students wherever possible.

**Whole class objective:**

Develop basic editing skills and technological proficiency.  
Explore new methods of creative storytelling.  
Come away with a unique and compelling original “radio episode” created by each student.

**Resources & Equipment:**

- Laptop
- Headphones
- Free editing and recording software (Noctiluca will advise)
- Basic recording equipment (Noctiluca can provide where necessary)
- Canvas website for submitting assignments and sharing work.

**Classroom organisation:**

Computer lab or classroom with laptop access.  
Students will make their recordings at home and use the classroom time for workshoping and editing.  
Students will share basic recording equipment for home sessions on a pre-determined schedule.

**Lesson development:**

1. Class 1: Share examples of student writing. Workshop ways in which writing might be edited to suit a “speaking voice. Each student works on editing a specific passage. Students will share passages at the end of class and practice speaking them aloud. Noctiluca artists will coach students on speaking style.
2. Homework: Prepare a draft of each writing piece to be spoken aloud in full at next class.
3. Class 2: Begin with sharing writing pieces (a few student examples). Work on coaching speaking style and editing where necessary. Begin brainstorming places where music or sound effects could be inserted.
4. Homework: Students will make their recordings at home and record and sound effects they think might be useful. Students will decide on where in their episode they might want music and what kind.
5. Class 3: Editing workshop. Noctiluca artists will lead a tutorial on basic editing skills and students will be encouraged to begin editing work on their recordings.
6. Homework: Students will finish editing work either in the computer lab or on their home computers using free editing software. Noctiluca artists will provide students with requested musical examples.
7. Class 4: Students will share an excerpt of their work in a final presentation. Students will have the option of uploading their work to Canvas to be shared with the class, and participants will be encouraged to listen to each other’s radio pieces afterwards.
8. Where necessary, any of these steps will be adapted to set realistic goals and accommodate student accessibility to technological resources, etc. For purposes of the workshop, a three-minute piece is as valuable as a twenty-minute piece. The emphasis is on the quality of the work and the students’ meaningful engagement with technology and thinking in new creative ways.