**Podcast Review Assignment**

Podcasts have become a popular new media form with the advent of on-line communication and portable digital devices. One can find podcasts about many and any topic, certainly including the social sciences. Some podcasts are better than others in terms of their engagement and entertainment value, but also their accuracy. Learning to understand and assess their arguments is an important skill to develop.

# STEP ONE: Podcast Selection

Your task is to listen to the BBC Inquiry – “How Can We Feed 11 Billion People” (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w3csytfv>) and write a review of it. This writing assignment is similar to an argumentized essay, but contains some structural differences. Read the instructions below and follow the suggested structure to help you write your review.

# STEP TWO: Listen and Understand

* Listen casually to the podcast first to understand its scope, organization, flow
* Listen again and take notes about its main points, supporting examples, key lines (quotations), etc. to break down its structure
* Develop a summary of the podcast’s overall thesis and its supporting points
  + use the note-taking and summary skills practiced and developed

# STEP THREE: Research

* Find **2 outside sources** about the topic covered by the podcast
  + seek academic, research-based sources
* Use the information in these sources to help you on the next step

# STEP FOUR: Assessment

* Think about the arguments made in the podcast and the related research you did and assess the podcast’s overall accuracy
  + in general, do you agree with the podcast argument? Why/why not?
  + does the podcast offer detailed and relevant evidence to support its arguments?
  + does the podcast use refer to or interview expert research or researchers? are they and the podcast’s sources credible?
  + is your related research generally supportive of and consistent with the podcast’s arguments or does it contradict them?

# STEP FIVE: Writing

* use the following structure to organize and write your podcast review
* each section below can be multiple paragraphs

**Introduction**: hook, background information (broad topic, specific podcast in 2-3 sentences), outline of your arguments (thesis: your overall position or opinion of the podcast, your assessment points) (¾ to 1 page, one paragraph)

**Summary**: summarize the podcast’s arguments and *some* of its evidence; include some of its content but focus on summarizing its overall arguments (1-page, one paragraph)

**Assessment**: what are your reasons or arguments for your overall position **about the podcast**? Write about one paragraph for each of your supporting reasons or arguments. In each, offer evidence to support your judgements: this will be a mix of examples from the podcast and research from your outside sources. Aim for 2 to 3 reasons in this section. (2 to 3 pages; one paragraph per argument)

**Conclusion:** restate your thesis and reasons; end with a closing thought, significance, broader importance, lesson to take away from the podcast and your assessment of it (1/2 to ¾ page, one paragraph)

**Setup**: use proper APA format to set up your paper

* include a **title page**, running header, page numbers, and subheadings for each section
* double space all text; use a basic, easy-to-read font, size 11 or 12
* include in-text references of all outside research; quotations or examples drawn directly from the podcast DO NOT need to be referenced.
* include a **reference list** at the end: list your podcast here, along with *both* outside sources used in your review
* write using **formal style**: third person, no contractions, formal phrasing Submit the assignment through Turn It In. (only the essay, no drafts or notes)