

# Radio Ambulante in the classroom

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## What is it?

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Radio Ambulante is a Spanish language podcast that tells uniquely Latin American stories in Spanish and from a perspective not usually heard via English language-centric news and media. The podcasts feature a variety of timely, professionally produced, and thought-provoking stories from all over Latin America and the Caribbean, and feature a wide variety of dialects of spoken Spanish.

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## Who listens to it?

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Radio Ambulante tells the stories of Latin Americans, around the world. While learners of Spanish are not the intended audience, Radio Ambulante has been used in a variety of language classroom settings, from high school to adult education and where learners have an high intermediate proficiency in listening and reading in Spanish and wish to improve those skills through active practice in the classroom.

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## Why do teachers use it?

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Radio Ambulante provides authentic, real world audio that focuses on stories that are told in a compelling manner. Many teachers report that this is the perfect alternative to some of the more static representations of “culture” presented by textbooks and other mass produced classroom teaching resources.

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## Is it just podcasts?

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In addition to each podcast (available for download on iTunes, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Ivoox ), there is a complete transcript that can be downloaded and shared with your students.

For stories produced in 2015, there are video transcripts (in English) that accompany the stories. In many cases there are also additional interviews with the producers, images, and supplemental background information to provide further context related to the stories.

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# What does it cost?

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The podcasts and transcripts are free and available for download. Creative Commons Licensing apply.

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# How can it be used with students?

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The RA crónicas have been used in the classroom as a way to broaden discussions about current events, to analyze linguistic differences and similarities between different forms of spoken Spanish, and to augment students' understanding of the history, politics, and social movements of the regions represented. And this is just the beginning!

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## What are some ways that I can use it with my students?

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Radio Ambulante is an excellent way to expose language students to different dialects and registers of spoken Spanish in the Spanish-speaking world. Some teachers assign the episodes as optional enrichment activities, others incorporate the podcasts directly into the curriculum. In the classroom, the transcripts and the recordings can be used with small group discussions. The stories often serve as catalysts for short essays, spoken or written reflections, or debates about topics that are in the news and affect Latin Americans. Teachers have shared with us a variety of ideas, and we are working with current users to learn more in order to share ideas as well as to create useful teaching resources for language teachers who want to use RA with their students.

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# How can I learn more

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Please contact Barbara Sawhill, Spanish Language Education Coordinator for Radio Ambulante, to receive updates and to learn more. Her email: [barbara@radioambulante.org](mailto:barbara@radioambulante.org)

