

1. **READING AND WRITING:**

- **The Art of Creating an Invisible Podcast Episode Script.**

- I do this sort of thing all the time for podcast or audio recording assignments. Scripting everything word for word feels unnatural, and the audience can realize that. For STN's sports show—which we just moved to the podcast studio—we break everything up into different segments. We have our talking points, but nothing more than that. Having a script does give an edge to a podcaster. What many people don't realize is that the thing that makes or breaks a podcast is flow. If you flow horribly, people aren't going to be interested long enough to listen. I'm also a firm believer in "Write how you Talk." Writing in your talking voice allows me to better understand what I'm saying and gets the words flowing quicker.

- **Creating a Great Podcast Script:**

- The word for word podcast is probably the worst idea I've ever heard. Sure, it gets everything you need to say, but it's ridiculously time consuming AND you run the risk of sounding unnatural. Forget just monotone, sometimes it is easy to tell when someone is reading off a script because of how they say certain words. I think the best moments are when a thought slips the mind, and you have to adlib.
- I don't mind a detailed outline of what you are going to talk about, and having some facts in there, but again, you run the risk of being unnatural. I think I do have enough skill that I can go in without a script and nail it. Sure, I go on my tangents, but I know that I can contain myself when needed.

- **Taglines, Hooks, and the Power of Words.**

- This is the toughest thing to adlib, so I'm really trying to get better at writing hooks and being more creative and inviting. I prefer the simple method of introducing the show and then going right into the conversation and who I'm with. It's not the hardest to adlib, but if you go for a grand introduction of your cohosts/guests, you run the risk of screwing up information.
- I do like the idea of explaining what the show is before you explain who you are or what you're about to talk about. I think that would pull listeners in immediately, the downside is you do risk having listeners turn it off immediately. If you know your audience, it is absolutely worth it.

- **Podcast Presentation Skills | Honing Your Speechcraft**

- I think podcasting—especially when podcasting solo—you need to create that sense of conversation with your viewer. It makes them feel like they are part of the conversation, and that they can respond to you. Having fun is a key as well. I think of this like I do any job, if you aren't having fun, people will notice that. There's always going to be a bad day, but you need to keep consistent. Breathing is also a huge factor that I struggle with—because I'm prone to tangent—that I need to stop and catch my breath out of nowhere. It's a confusing issue but I'll take their advice, keep steady throughout.

- **7 of the Best Podcast Tools: Streamline, Hone, and Grow your Show.**

- I refuse to use AI so that one is automatically out. I feel like AI just takes the human feel out of the show. Is it really *your show* if a robot came up with the title for it? I'm running with my FIFINE K690 Microphone, and this thing is small but powerful. You have to be

careful with mics that you're actually working through that mic, because if you aren't, well then there's 40 minutes gone immediately.

- I think you just need to run Audition or Audacity if you're just starting, there is no reason to go off the wall with software immediately.

2. RESEARCH TO INFORM:

- [Welcome To Night Vale:](#)

- Arguably one of my favorite podcasts of all time, this podcast is a science fiction piece surrounding a paranormal town called "Night Vale." The sound design is incredible, as it runs like a newscast, but we get these eerie feelings as different events happen. The Ambient Noise is incredible, and Cecil's voice provides a paradoxically chilling and calming presence for the listeners.

- [Anti-Smoking PSA.](#)

- The sound design is incredible because we understand exactly what is happening immediately. You hear the lighter clicking, the inhale, the coughing. All of it gives a horrific detail as to what smoking immediately does to your lungs as well as the rest of your body. The ambient noise during the narration parts creates another eerie fill that is supposed to put you off smoking.

- [Pest Protections](#)

- The music is enticing immediately, it forces you to pay attention. The voice of the women in this PSA isn't as haunting as Cecil's or the narrators in the Anti-Smoking PSA, but she nails the severity on some of the words. "How can YOU" is an incredible annunciation, but she comes off more inviting to solve the problem than scare you away from any sort of substance.