These tips are from Dave Henning, Executive Vice President of Q Code – the company responsible for making the Hank the Cowdog Podcast!

TIPS FOR FINDING A GREAT STORY

• INTERESTING OR LARGER THAN LIFE CHARACTERS
  o Without visuals, it’s very important that we can tell our characters apart. Make sure to choose a story with unique character so they don’t sound the same!
  o Try not to choose a story with too many characters, unless you and your cast can do a lot of voices.

• HIGH STAKES OR REWARDS
  o Underdogs, adventures and quests make for great podcasts as they keep the audience interested. What lesson did our main characters learn or what obstacles did they overcome?
  o Find a story with action, drama and suspense to keep people listening.

• QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:
  o Where does your story take place? This helps give a sense of sound design and effects.
    * Hank takes place on a ranch, so we hear other animals and noises.
  o What simple effects can you make with your voice or objects around the house?

TIPS FOR MAKING YOUR PODCAST

• FIND A QUIET AREA WITH NO ECHOES! Rooms with carpet or closets full of clothes make for decent recording studios. Covering your head and microphone with a towel or blanket can help soften echoes as well.

• BEFORE RECORDING YOUR SHOW, DO SOME TESTS:
  o Try out a few different rooms
  o Record at different distances from the microphone – you don’t want to be too close to muffle your voice, but not far enough away that the microphone can’t capture you.
  o Read the first scene of your script and listen back to check your pacing and speed.

• DON’T FORGET YOUR CREDITS – make sure your audience knows who helped!

• MUSIC NEVER HURTS!
  o If you can write a song to open or close your podcast people will never forget it.
THINK ABOUT THE PARTS OF YOUR PODCAST STORY, TELL US ABOUT THE:

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<th>Beginning (AKA: Rising Action)</th>
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<th>Middle (AKA: Conflict/Problem)</th>
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<th>Middle (AKA: Climax/Turning Point)</th>
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<th>End (AKA: Resolution)</th>
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It is important to introduce your podcast. Fill in the blanks to make sure you include all the important elements of the introduction.

Title of your podcast:__________________________________________

__________________________________________

Your greeting: ___________________________________________

Introduce Yourself: ____________________________________________________________________

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Write out your introduction:________________________________________________________________

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Fill in the form below to create the beginning of the story you are telling in your podcast. Remember, the beginning of the story is the RISING ACTION!

Who are the characters?: ________________________________

What is the setting?: ________________________________

Write out your beginning:

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Fill in the form below to create the MIDDLE of the story you are telling in your podcast. Remember, the middle of the story is where you reveal the CONFLICT/PROBLEM!

What is the conflict/problem?: ________________________________

Write out your MIDDLE:

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RANCH SECURITY
PODCAST Part 3
For use by Official Ranch Security Deputies

Fill in the form below to create the second part of the MIDDLE of the story you are telling in your podcast. In this section of the story is where you reveal the CLIMAX/TURNING POINT!

What is the climax/turning point?: ________________________________

Write this part of the story:

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NATIONAL RANCHING HERITAGE CENTER
ONLINE AT RANCHLIFELARNING.COM
Fill in the form below to create the END of the story you are telling in your podcast. Remember, the end of the story is where you reveal the RESOLUTION!

What is the RESOLUTION OF YOUR STORY?:

________________________________________________________________________________________

Write out your ENDING:

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Fill in the form below to create the CLOSING your podcast. Remember, this is where you tell your audience goodbye!

State Your Name Again:

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Create a sign off:

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Write out your CLOSING:

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DON’T FORGET YOUR CREDITS – make sure your audience knows who helped!

LIST OUT WHO YOUR HELPERS WERE AND WHAT ROLES THEY PLAYED:

NAME: ___________________________________________________________________

ROLE: ___________________________________________________________________

NAME: ___________________________________________________________________

ROLE: ___________________________________________________________________

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