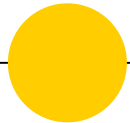


# Podcast a Document Today!

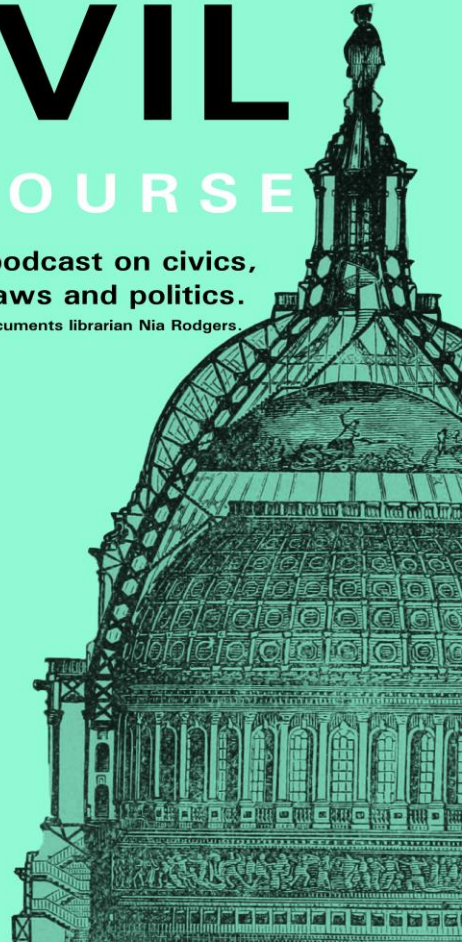
Stephani (Nia) Rodgers  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
FDLP Conference, October 2019



# CIVIL DISCOURSE

Non-partisan podcast on civics,  
government, laws and politics.

Hosted by government documents librarian Nia Rodgers.



There are people who are able to plan their career, their future, but I've never had any talent for that. I just do things and hope for the best. Say yes, take a chance, and sometimes it's terrific and sometimes it's not.

Christopher Walken



“



**There is only 1 real FAQ:**

**What is your podcast about?**



**The rest is easy!\***

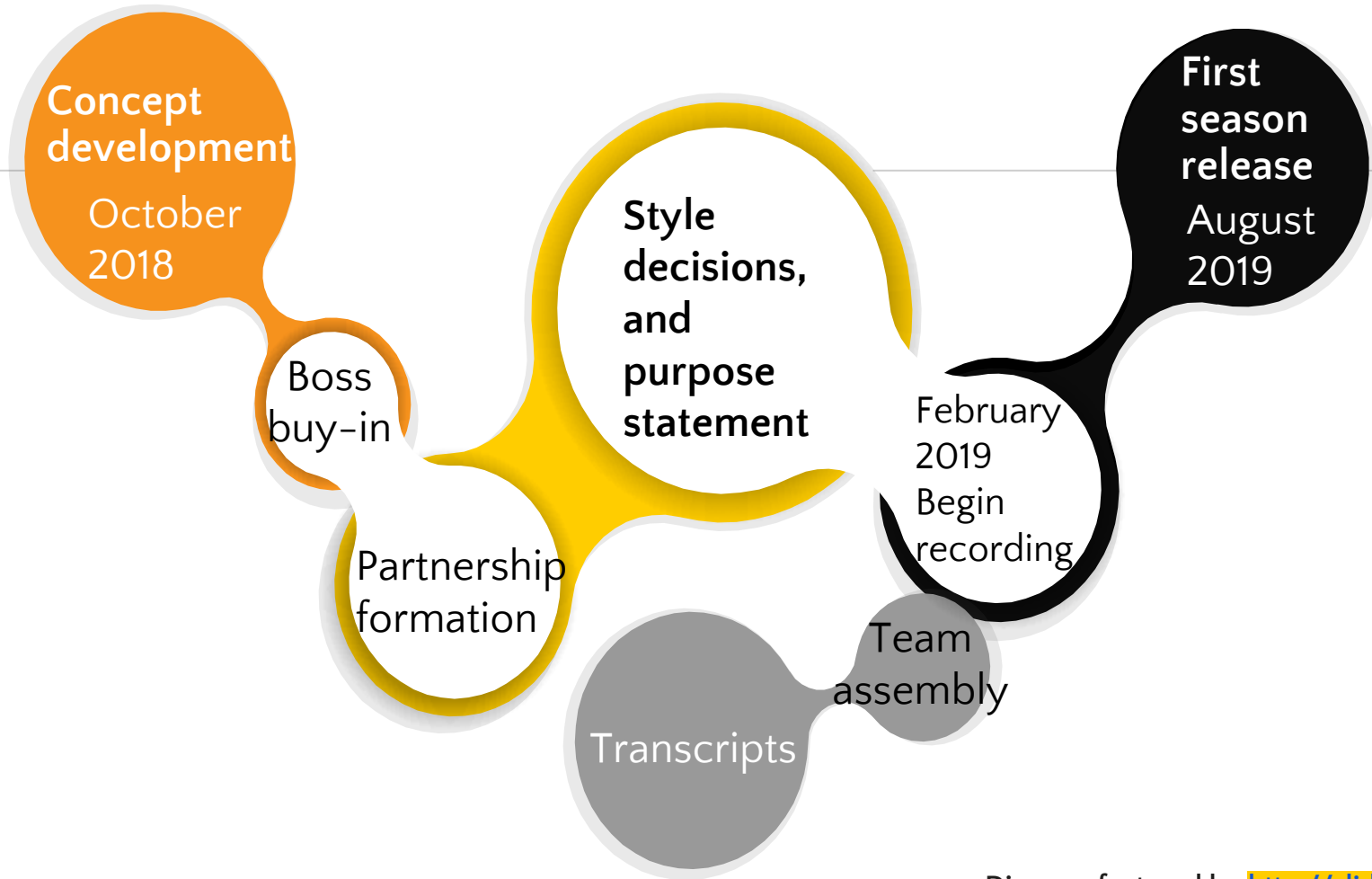


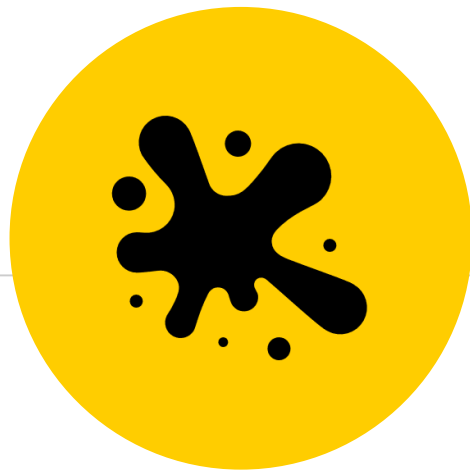
\* Not really, but I'm trying not to scare you.



# It takes a village





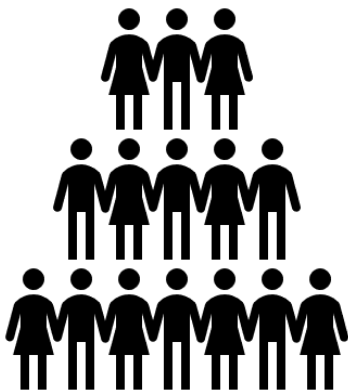


# Discovering Your Style

Are you formal? Informal? Scripted? Unscripted?  
Adult? Kid-friendly? Geeky? Funny?



## Our Audience



- Faculty
- Undergrads and graduate students
- Gov Docs community
- Public





## **Podcast as Public Teaching**

One of the responsibilities of Gov Docs librarians is to engage the public in educational opportunities.



## Getting the word out

- ⦿ Social media
- ⦿ Professors announce in class
- ⦿ Print materials
- ⦿ Presentations like this one!





## Not Possible to Overstate...

...the importance of a partnership. That person acts as your safety net, sounding board, conversation partner, and the person that talks you off the ledge. Get a really good partner. You can't have mine. 😊





# Pitfalls

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## Resource expenditures can be high, depending on style

### Low

- Iphone or Android for recording
- Free software (Garageband, etc) to edit
- Local publishing

### Medium

- Formal recording device / closet
- Low cost or free software for editing
- Account to publish

### High

- Soundproofed Room, better recording equipment
- Software, sound engineer for editing
- Transcriptions
- Account to publish

Software updates that crack deadlines.

Transcripts that don't come back on time or are not usable.

## **Production difficulties**

You can't get the room booked in time for recording.

Resources or people become unavailable.

Your workload suddenly goes bonkers.

Equipment failures!



## Assessment is hard

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### Qualitative

- Strong partnerships
- Leads to other projects
- Anecdotes
- Conversation opener!

### Quantitative

- Number of downloads in Transistor
- Number of views on Scholar's Compass
- Number of views of research guide
- Geography of listeners



Photo by Kate Condon





## How I Think of Podcasting

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Learn stuff

**Have fun**

Build  
connections



## Takeaways

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### Concept Development

Make sure you are completely clear on what you are trying to accomplish with your podcast

### Resources

Transcripts are not cheap; the equipment can have various levels of sticker shock.

### Partnership

Podcasting, at least for me, is best enjoyed as a team sport. Get a partner, collaborate the heck out of it.

### Numbers Aren't Everything

Name recognition for a librarian with their faculty is as important as the number of listeners.

### Team

You need support from colleagues and administration to keep it going.

### Fun

You'll spend an awful lot of blood, sweat, and tears on this podcast – make sure you are having more fun than not.



# World Domination





# Thanks!

*Any* **questions** ?

You can find me at

- [slrodgers@vcu.edu](mailto:slrodgers@vcu.edu)
- <https://guides.library.vcu.edu/discourse>



## Credits

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Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

- Presentation template by [SlidesCarnival](#)
- Photographs by [Unsplash](#) and Kate Condon
- Headshots courtesy of Virginia [Commonwealth University](#)