

A woman with long dark hair and glasses is shown in profile, smiling and gesturing with her hands as if in conversation. The background is a blurred office or studio setting with a pinkish-red color cast.

# LISTEN LOUNGE



## **What is a WNYC Studios Listen Lounge?**

A WNYC Studios Listen Lounge is a chance to learn from and discuss your favorite podcasts with your peers!

The process is simple — use this packet as your guide.



## How Do I Create a Listen Lounge on Campus?

### STEP 1: **Pick an Episode.**

Browse suggested episodes here. Choose one that works best for the tone and interests of your group. You can choose from WNYC Studio's suggested episodes or select one of your personal favorites from the WNYC Studios' website.

### STEP 2: **Set a Location and Time.**

Select a date and space to have your Listen Lounge. You can hold it on campus, in a common area in your dorm, or at a quiet space off campus. Don't forget to ask for permission to use the space! WNYC Studios has provided a sample email to send to university staff to request the space.

### STEP 3: **Invite Your Friends and Get the Word Out!!**

- Send out invites for your Listen Lounge via email, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and other social channels.
- Place WNYC Studios' provided Listen Lounge posters around campus. Fill in the blanks with details specific to the Listen Lounge you're hosting.
- Aim for a smaller group (usually no more than 30 students) so everyone gets a chance to speak up.
- Send a reminder a day or so before the event.
- Use WNYC Studios' social media kit for help creating your posts.

### STEP 4: **Prepare and Listen to the Episode.**

- Take some time to listen to the episode before the Listen Lounge.
- Jot down any key points and questions you may want to discuss during your event or use WNYC Studios' recommended questions.



## STEP 5: Listen Lounge Day — Prep and Play!

- When the Listen Lounge date comes, make your space cozy and welcoming. Arrive at the space early and have your Listen Lounge Day-Of checklist in hand.
- Learn each other's names. You may want to begin with one of WNYC Studios' suggested icebreakers to make the group more comfortable.
- Be sure to take advantage of snacks and promotional items available from WNYC Studios and invite attendees to share their experience on social media.
- When you're ready to play the episode, be sure people have a focal point to rest on—place your laptop or iPhone in the center of the circle or have the podcast episode projected on the big screen. Make sure notifications are turned off!
- It's important to make everyone feel comfortable, since a shared listening experience might feel awkward at first. Acknowledging this for the group is a great way to put everyone at ease.

## STEP 6: Listen Lounge Day — Discussion

- Lead a discussion with your group using the questions provided by WNYC Studios and/or your own. It often helps to share a personal experience that relates to the content in the episode so others in the group feel comfortable sharing their own.
- Encourage people to talk one at a time and focus on meaningful discussion — you can refer to WNYC Studios' discussion tip sheet for help.
- Refer to WNYC Studio' de-escalation sheet if you feel a discussion is getting too heated. The goal here is for individuals to learn new perspectives from both the podcast episode and their peers, highlighting how they personally relate to the topics discussed in the episode. By facilitating this event, you will lay the groundwork for students to begin more open, honest and courageous conversations outside of the group — and maybe even host their own Listen Lounge!



## STEP 7: **Listen Lounge Day – Wrap Up**

- Finish the discussion by thanking everyone for joining and sharing. Let everyone know how to get in touch with the WNYC Studios Listen Lounge team for any questions or to plan future events.
- Be sure to show everyone how to get more episodes of your selected podcast from iTunes, Google Play, or on the WNYC Studios website. (Not sure how to download a podcast on your phone? Check out our download guide!)
- You may also encourage students to share their experience at the Listen Lounge on social media to spread the word!

## BONUS! **Tell Us How It Went**

We would love to hear from you! Send us pictures, stories and comments from your Listen Lounge event. You may even be featured on our website. Tag @WNYCStudios, or email Shannon McMahon: [smcmahon@wnyc.org](mailto:smcmahon@wnyc.org).

