From Paper to Air (The art of Radio Drama) GRC-2014 (Betty McArdle and Donna DiBianco)

Types of radio theater:

               Short skits (3-5 minutes)

               Half hour to full hour shows

               Drama

               Mystery

               Comedy

Where to get radio theater:

               Download a recording of one of the above

               Download a script; perform live on your radio station

               Download a script; record the performance and play back on your radio station

               Write a script; perform live on your radio station

               Write a script; record the performance and play back on your radio station

               Any others

Share some examples

Have an idea

Outline how the story starts; some of the events you want in the middle; how it ends

Write first draft of script. Writing a script is different than writing prose. You need to write in directions for the actors. But, since this is radio theater, you don’t write things that are visual: walk across the room, shut the door, look at other actors with different facial expressions, etc.  Sound effects are used to convey most of these additions to the spoken words.

Sound effects can be really fun. We’ll come back to sound effects in a bit.

Back to writing the script. After writing the rough draft, do a reading – out loud. This will point out awkward areas; places where the proposed sound effects aren’t working, or where a sound effect needs to be added.

Brain storm some ideas for a script. Divide the group into smaller groups: four or five each group. Write a rough draft script using one of the brain stormed ideas. Five minute scripts. Give them 15 minutes to write the script. Readings, five minute each. Feedback. If there is time, do re-write; re-performance.

Resources:

Other possible ideas:

               Pick one of the original scripts to perform at a plenary. Some people be performers; some do sound effects; somebody be the director. This is a rough idea.