

## **History of the Singular ‘They’: Instructor Suggestions**

Assign students to listen to the podcast “[Gender-Neutral Pronouns: Singular ‘They.’](#)” (Remember that students can also read the text on the Grammar Girl website.) Then, ask students to research the history of “they” as a gender-neutral pronoun using at least two sources. With their research, have each student write a brief paragraph outlining that history — and don’t forget to have them cite their sources!

Either during class or asynchronously, put students into groups of three or four. First, have them evaluate the sources’ credibility. They should then select the two or three most credible sources.

Assign them to write a brief podcast script about the history of “they” as a gender-neutral pronoun. They should use and cite the two or three most credible sources, which can include the Grammar Girl podcast. The podcast script should be about 2-3 minutes long when read aloud.

## **Questions for Students to Consider in the Podcast**

Questions for students to consider in their podcasts can include the following:

- When was “they” first used as a gender-neutral pronoun?
- Has “they” become more or less popular over time, or has that popularity stayed the same?
- How do people use “they” as a gender-neutral pronoun today?

Ad-free versions of the podcasts and word-for-word transcripts are available through Macmillan Learning’s [Achieve](#) and [LaunchPad](#) products. To learn more about digital products and purchasing options, please visit Macmillan’s [English catalog](#) or ask your sales representative.

## **History of the Singular ‘They’: Student Instructions**

Listen to the podcast “Gender-Neutral Pronouns: Singular ‘They.’” (Remember that you can also read the text on the Grammar Girl website.) Then, research the history of “they” as a gender-neutral pronoun using at least two sources. Use your research to write a brief paragraph outlining that history — and don’t forget to cite your sources!

In groups assigned by your instructor, evaluate the sources’ credibility and select the two or three most credible sources.

Next, write a brief podcast script about the history of “they” as a gender-neutral pronoun. Use and cite the two or three most credible sources, which can include the Grammar Girl podcast. The podcast script should be about 2-3 minutes long when read aloud.

### **Questions to Consider in the Podcast**

Questions to consider in your podcasts can include the following:

- When was “they” first used as a gender-neutral pronoun?
- Has “they” become more or less popular over time, or has that popularity stayed the same?
- How do people use “they” as a gender-neutral pronoun today?