



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 16, 2016

**Listenwise Named a Winner in the NewSchools Ignite ELL Challenge**  
*Funding and technical support will fuel ideas for new ELL tools*

**BOSTON, MA** – [Listenwise](#) is proud to announce it is a winner of the [NewSchools Ignite English Language Learning \(ELL\) Challenge](#), a funding competition created by [NewSchools Venture Fund](#). Listenwise is one of 13 organizations awarded grants. They will join other Ignite Challenge winners to become a community of more than 100 entrepreneurs working to develop better tools for ELL students. ELL students are one of the fastest growing student groups in American schools, currently representing 10 percent of all students.

Listenwise pairs curriculum aligned podcasts with learning tools and listening comprehension assessments to transform them into rigorous academic content. The compelling public radio stories engage ELL students and listening supports, such as our interactive transcripts, support literacy and academic language acquisition.

“We are very excited to receive this grant from NewSchools to accelerate English learners on their journey to college and career readiness. Many English Learners are not acquiring the level of academic language needed and we believe listening has the power to improve outcomes.” says Listenwise Founder and CEO, Monica Brady-Myerov. “Listenwise delivers authentic listening experiences that build critical academic language for ELLs.”

“I am excited to work with all the companies in the new ELL Challenge cohort,” said Tonika Cheek Clayton. “The need is tremendous. Educators have told us there is a real scarcity of ELL products, and that’s why we decided to do this challenge. They are looking for sophisticated tools that meet the needs of ELL students across multiple grade levels and subject areas.”

Listenwise is also a finalist in the [2016 CODiE Awards](#) for Best ESL/ELL Solution.

##

**Contact:**

Karen Gage

[karen@listenwise.com](mailto:karen@listenwise.com)

(617) 304-9057

**About Listenwise**

Listenwise makes it easy to bring authentic voices and engaging non-fiction stories to the classroom. Listenwise offers daily current events and lessons for middle and high school teachers in science, social studies English Language Arts, and ESL. The real world relevance of these podcasts help students connect with the curriculum. All the while, students are working on critical listening skills for college and career readiness, which have almost been entirely missing from classroom instruction. Find more information at: <https://listenwise.com>

**About NewSchools Ignite**

NewSchools Ignite is a competitive opportunity for funding and support for early-stage products and teams that have shown potential for developing learning tools that enhance student learning. NewSchools Ignite grant challenges to date have focused on science learning products, math learning products and this most recent one, which is for English language learning products. Learn more at [www.newschools.org/ignite](http://www.newschools.org/ignite).