

Tips for Online Learning Using Project Look Sharp's Free Lessons and Materials

Project Look Sharp has hundreds of free media literacy lessons and thousands of media examples that can be downloaded by educators and students – including video clips, advertisements, speeches, and dozens of other media formats – for teaching core subject area content and habits of critical thinking. Here are some suggestions for how to use those free resources for online media literacy education.

Low Tech Ideas:

- Give your students the handout [Key Questions to Ask When Analyzing Media Messages](#) and encourage them to apply these questions to the media that they see, read and hear in their homes and neighborhoods.
 - For younger students, this can easily be applied to food packages, books, online videos, and commercials.
 - For older students, asking key questions about news, advertising, and social media messages can help them step back a bit to gain new perspectives on how they know what they know.
 - Encouraging all children and teens to point out things they notice in the media, and to discuss different interpretations and perspectives among members of the family.
- Have your students keep journals (on paper or digitally) about their own media use, noticing changes in their media diet on weekends, during school closings, etc.
- Have your students [sign up for a free Project Look Sharp account](#) and [find media literacy lessons](#) that interest them. Many can be done independently.

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

If you have other **suggestions or feedback** on how Project Look Sharp can support educators in teaching online please email us at looksharp@ithaca.edu

Asynchronous Online Ideas:

- Push out to your students any media documents from the thousands available in the [free Look Sharp collection](#), posing questions for discussion and analysis from our associated lessons. Have them respond individually or in a group forum using whatever classroom technology students are using for your class.
 - Share digitally with students the *Background Information, Document Notes, Additional Info*, or other text from the lesson plan that you would otherwise share orally with the class.
 - Create a simple graphic organizer, question guide or other handout using the questions in the lesson.
- Use one of the online annotation apps to have students communicate their analysis of media messages (e.g., Flipgrid or Voice Thread for audio/video sharing).

Synchronous Online Ideas:

- Use an online platform like Zoom to facilitate a live group decoding of a media document from the [free Look Sharp collection](#). This works really well (even in a large class) if the teacher shares their screen to show the media document, posing questions and asking students to raise their hands (in the participants list). The teacher can then call on someone, who can unmute themselves and respond.
- Start with the whole class together to lay out relevant background information and the context for the decoding, using the teacher guide or activity plan provided in the Look Sharp lesson. Show the media image, text, or video clip, giving students a chance to take notes. Then send students into smaller groups (e.g., breakout rooms) to discuss what questions they think are most important to ask about that media example – and what the answers might be to those questions – with one person designated to report-out when the class gets back together.