

Dear **High School Global Studies** Teachers,

For over two decades, [Project Look Sharp](#), a mission-driven not-for-profit **media literacy** organization at Ithaca College, has been collaborating with educators to provide free, inquiry-based, standards-aligned **media analysis lessons** that integrate core subject area content and skills with [habits of critical questioning](#).

Below you will find an overview of our lessons for **high school global studies** followed by an introduction to the purpose and pedagogy of [our approach](#), ending with information about our free professional development resources for [Constructivist Media Decoding](#).

## **THE LESSONS:**

We currently have [89 lessons](#) for incorporating [question-based media analysis](#) into the teaching of **global studies at the high school level**. These include extensive multi-lesson kits including [Global Media Perspectives](#) (Europe, Latin America, Africa, India, S.E. Asia), [Media Constructions of the Middle East](#) (Islam, Iraq, Iran, Israel/Palestine), [Soviet History Through Posters](#) (USSR 1918-91), and [Media Construction of War](#) (Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan) as well as dozens of stand-alone lessons.

You can [search](#) our lessons by grade level, subject area and keyword and filter your search by media type, educational standards, and much more. All our lessons provide **rich media** - such as short video clips, social media posts, songs, paintings, sculptures, photographs, and excerpts from books, magazines, websites, films, TV shows, etc. – to **teach both core subject area content and media literacy**.

Below are just some of our **newest lessons** for teaching high school **global studies**. Click on any title below to get a brief description and to download all the teaching materials.

[The Spanish Conquest of Mexico: Whose Story?](#)

[Responding to Global Problems: Analyzing Keys to Success and Recipes for Failure](#)

[Mapping Ancient Civilizations: Who's Included and Who's Not?](#)

[Representations of Asian People in the Media](#)

[National Geographic's Africa](#)

[Migrants Wait in Mexico – Whose Problems Do We See?](#)

[Ancient Nubia & Ancient Egypt: What's the Story?](#)

[Family Planning: Why it Matters](#)

[Vaccine Nationalism and Global Equity: Who Gets the Shots When?](#)

[Mapping the Border: Who Decides?](#)

[Slavery in the 21st Century: What Can We Do?](#)

[Educating Girls](#)

[Greta Meets Malala: How Different Media Forms Present the News](#)

[Fighting Back Against Religious Intolerance](#)

[Climate Disaster: Young People Act](#)

[Rising Sea Refugees](#)

[Geoengineering: Can Techno Fixes Save Us From Climate Change?](#)

## **CONSTRUCTIVIST MEDIA DECODING:**

Our [constructivist approach](#) is particularly effective for leading civil and reflective document-based analysis about **potentially polarizing issues**. Our lessons and methodology help students learn to habitually ask key questions; assess truth, credibility, and accuracy in media messages; and become **metacognitive** about their own thinking.

We believe that the critical analysis of all media messages - from books to blogs, paintings to *Pinterest* - must become habitual for all our students. Students need **continual practice** in asking [critical thinking questions](#) such as:

- *Who produced this for what purpose?*
- *Is the source and information credible?*
- *What are the biases in this message?*
- *How does my own identity influence how I see this?*

For this kind of self-reflective critical analysis to become ingrained, we need to have students practice this questioning, in age-appropriate ways, from Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, and in diverse subject areas. And we need effective and **efficient methodologies and free materials** to support the integration of media analysis into the core curriculum – helping us to teach what we already teach in ways that **engage more students** more effectively.

Project Look Sharp has published over [500 media analysis lessons](#) on our website and over [70 professional development resources](#) for this purpose. All of our lessons – including the lesson

plans, media materials, and student handouts – are grant-funded so we can make them available **FREE for educators** through the [Project Look Sharp](#) website. All you need to do is set up an [account](#).

## **Professional Development Resources:**

Project Look Sharp also has short, annotated [video demonstrations](#) of classroom media decoding for different subjects including the following:

- [US Wars in Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan](#)
- [The Politics of Maps Israel/Palestine](#)
- [Soviet History](#)
- [National Geographic's Africa](#)
- [WWI Propaganda Posters](#)

These videos are just part of our extensive free [professional development materials](#), including:

- [Key Questions to Ask When Analyzing Media Messages](#) and other handouts and posters
- [Articles and webinars](#) about Constructivist Media Decoding
- A [DIY Guide](#) for creating your own lessons

Please consider signing up for a [free account](#) to fully view our lessons and get added to our [email list](#) so that you will get periodic notices about new lessons and resources. And please pass on the word about [Project Look Sharp](#). Together we can build a more civil, reflective and just society for all.

### **Project Look Sharp**

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