Dear **Secondary Math** 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 middle and high school **mathematics** 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 8 lessons for incorporating question-based media analysis into the teaching of **math at the secondary level**. All of our lessons – including the lesson plans, media materials, and other 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 a free account as an educator.

Below are just some our **newest lessons** for integrating media analysis into high school math. Click on any title below to get a brief description and to download all the teaching materials.

   Social Media and Elections: What's the Connection?

   Polling on Structural Racism: What Do Different People Believe?

   Who's in Power in Congress: How Do You Know?

   COVID-19 & Climate Change: Graphing the Connection

   Mass Shootings: Tracking the Numbers

   Changing Our Media Habits: The Impact of the Pandemic

Contact us if you have an idea for a math lesson using constructivist media decoding.

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 graphs and games to TV and TikTok - must become habitual for all our students. Students need **continual practice** in asking [critical thinking questions](#) such as:

- *Who produced this and 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 12th grade, and in diverse subject areas – including mathematical **representations of data**. 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 educators need to do is set up an [account](#).

Professional Development Resources:

Project Look Sharp also has short, annotated [video demonstrations](#) of in-person and online classroom media decoding for different levels and subjects.

Our extensive [free PD materials](#) about **curriculum driven media decoding** include:
- [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
Ithaca College
Email: looksharp@ithaca.edu
Web: https://www.projectlooksharp.org/