



January 2023 Newsletter

## This month's highlights:

- Lessons for **Black History Month**
- New Lesson on ***Indigenous Media Making***
- **New Staff** for Project Look Sharp

## Lessons on Black History:



**Elementary**  
*(2 lessons)*

**Middle School**  
*(10 lessons)*

**High School**  
*(16 lessons)*

Click on any of the buttons above or links below to access our free media decoding lessons:

### Elementary level lesson:

[Sculptures of Dr. King: Reading the Message](#)



### High School & College lessons:

[Critical Race Theory](#)

Students analyze clips from a variety of **video** sources for messages about the teaching of U.S. history, critical race theory and the power of media to persuade.

[Polling on Structural Racism](#)

Students analyze **charts and graphs** showing polling



Why was this made? How are the sculptures different?

### Decoding the Twenty



What are the messages about US history? How might people's identity impact how they view the choice of Tubman vs Jackson?

### Middle School lessons:

#### Black Identity

Students analyze excerpts from four **songs** to reflect on the meaning of black identity in the black freedom/civil rights movement.

#### Youth Activism Black Identity

Students analyze four short **film excerpts** to reflect on the role of young activists in the black freedom/civil rights movement.

#### A Media Chronology

Students analyze diverse **visual media** representations of Dr. Martin Luther King's public accomplishments.

data on how different groups view structural racism in the US.

### Miles Davis: Inspiration to a Masterpiece

Students analyze video clips from **a feature film and a documentary film** for messages about musical inspiration and collaborative creativity.

### Race and Perspective

Students compare two **opinion pieces, a TV news commentary, and a print article**, about the police response to Black Lives Matter protests and to the Capitol insurrection on Jan. 6, 2021, analyzing media construction and how our identity influences our views.

### Covering Black Lives Matter

Students analyze **newspaper front pages** for messages about media representation of nationwide protests following the murder of George Floyd.

### Representing Enslavement

Students analyze **primary and secondary texts** from the 19th, 20th & 21st centuries for messages about African slavery in South Carolina.

To view more PLS lessons, click the button below:

Race  
(67 lessons)

## New Lessons

We have nearly a dozen new lessons in the hopper, many of them co-written with teachers and librarians. We have one to announce below but check the website over the next month for new lessons for the youngest students from Faith Rogow, Michele Coolbeth and Sharon Fox. Other new lessons include **Columbus: Whose Story?** from Roma Matott (Elementary through High School), **Rosie the Riveter** about gender and historical context from Mary Kate Longeran (Middle School), **Memes and Political Bias** by Beth Cuddy (high school & college), and **Rapping the Revolution in Iran** by Sox Sperry (High School & College). Stay tuned!

Today we can announce the new lesson, **Indigenous Media Making**, just posted on the PLS site. Like all 570 of our lessons, they are free to educators and use engaging media documents with standards-aligned questions to teach core content and habits of critical thinking about media messages.

## Indigenous Media Making: Affirming Identity



Students analyze short videos from TikTok, a feature film, a video game, a hip hop video, and a documentary film for messages related to Indigenous identity and cultural pride.

This lesson is part of the resource collections on Sox Sperry's new website:



*How Might Ancestral Voices Help Us Take Action in Uncertain Times?*

## What's going on at Project Look Sharp?



Our apologies for any difficulties accessing our website recently. Thank to our website angel, Ari Kissiloff, we are now back to full functionality. Please let us know if you continue to have difficulties with the site.

You may have noticed that we have not posted a newsletter since November when our wonderful Administrative Coordinator, Josh Solomon, finished his tenure at PLS. We now have a new slate of part-time experts who have taken over Josh's full-time work including:

- **Tracy Mack** - Librarian from the Albany area who will be orchestrating our lesson production.
- **Roma Matott** - ML3 Librarian who is working on promotion, design work, and our online course.
- **Ari Kissiloff** - Assistant Professor of communications at Ithaca College who is guiding our website.
- and **Josh Solomon** is staying on part-time to help us with budget.

Thanks to these folks, and to you, for your patience as we retool for even better things ahead!



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