

PROJECT LOOK SHARP



January 2024 Newsletter

PLS January '24 Newsletter at a Glance

New Lessons:

- *Bias in School Curriculum: News Report or Analysis?* - High School & College
- *Genres Through Book Covers* – Early & Upper Elementary & Middle School
- *Vaccine Safety - Exploring Our Own Biases* - High School & College

Lessons for MLK Day and Black History Month

New Media Literacy Legislation

Article on ML3: Librarians as Leaders for Media Literacy

Project Look Sharp's New Server

New FREE Media Decoding Lessons

[Bias in School Curriculum: News Report or Analysis?](#)

High School & College



Students analyze news articles about bias in school curriculum approved in Florida in 2023. Students compare a news report and news analysis and reflect on how their own biases influence their interpretations and responses.



See media decoding lessons about **Schools** for [Elementary](#), [Middle](#), and [High School/College](#)

Genres Through Book Covers

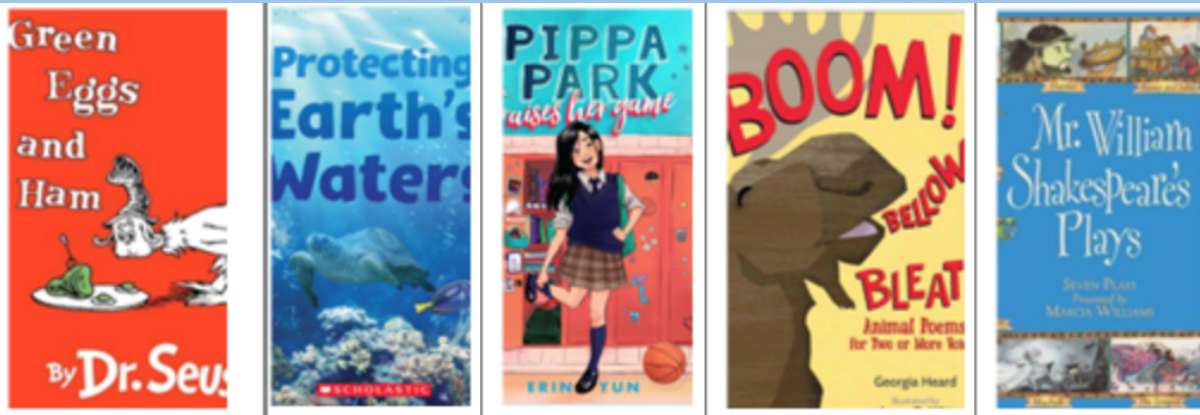
****These lessons will be available by the end of January.****

Early Elementary, Upper Elementary & Middle School

Students analyze book covers for messages about literary genres.

These lessons were crafted in collaboration with ML3 librarian Janet Balk and with school librarians in the ML3 group in Nassau, NY.

Early Elementary



Upper Elementary through Middle School



See media decoding lessons related to **literature**, for: [Early Elementary](#), [Upper Elementary](#), [Middle School](#), [High School](#)

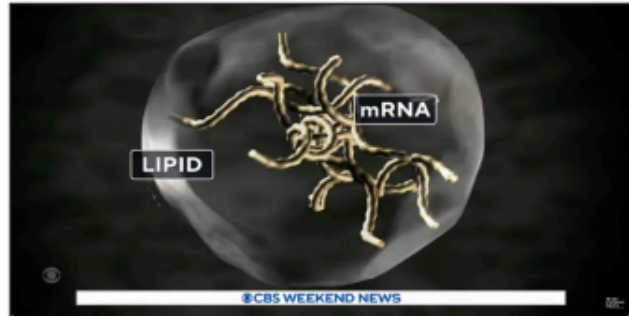
Vaccine Safety - Exploring Our Own Biases

High School & College - **Health, Science, Journalism, Library, Civics**

Students analyze two short news videos about the safety and speed of the creation of the mRNA Covid vaccine, about sourcing and credibility of the videos and the scientific information presented in them, and about their own confirmation biases.



“Health Officials Worried About Rushing COVID-19 Vaccine Out Too Quickly.” Fox54 News. 2020. :55.



“The Decades of Development Behind mRNA Vaccine Technology.” CBS Evening News. 2022. 1:27.

Search our lessons for [Health](#), [Science](#), etc. by *Grade Level, Keyword, Media Type*, etc.

Lessons for MLK Day and Black History Month

Media Constructions of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Media Constructions of Martin Luther King, Jr.
A Media Literacy Kit

The collage features several key elements: a map of the United States with a hand pointing to the Southern region; a newspaper clipping titled "EYES ON THE PRIZE" with the subtitle "America's Civil Rights Movement 1954-1968"; a portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; and other smaller images and text fragments related to his life and work.

See our [14 lessons about MLK](#) including:

- [Sculptures of Dr. King:](#)
Elementary
- [Media Construction of King:](#)
Middle School - College
- [Three Speeches](#)
Middle School, High School & College
ELA & History

See our [19 lessons for Black History Month](#) by level, keyword, subject, duration, etc.



New Media Literacy Legislation:

More states are enacting media literacy requirements, including Colorado, Illinois, Texas, and Washington State in 2021 and Delaware in 2022. In 2023 [California passed a law](#) that requires schools to “offer instruction” in media literacy and for the Department of Education to make media literacy resources and professional development available. [New Jersey’s new law](#) “Requires each school district to incorporate instruction on information literacy in an appropriate place in the curriculum.” Proposed legislation in New York centers media literacy integration under the leadership of school librarians. There is also proposed legislation [at the federal level](#). For information about [legislative initiatives](#) in your state go to [Media Literacy Now](#).

JML Article on ML3

Chris Sperry and Cyndy Scheibe have a new article out in the most recent Journal for Media Literacy: [ML3: Librarians as Leaders for Media Literacy](#). The article gives an overview of the ML3 initiative that gives K-12 school librarians the resources, training, and support to be the leaders in integrating question-based, student-centered, curriculum-driven media analysis throughout the curriculum. The article includes links to the resources developed in New York State that enable school librarians to facilitate [Constructivist Media Decoding](#) with their students and provide professional development for their colleagues.



Project Look Sharp Has a New Server!

After many months of effort, we finally have transitioned to a new web server that should address the many log-in problems users have been having as well as improve the speed of searches. If you are still having problems with your account email: looksharp@ithaca.edu.



