

PROJECT LOOK SHARP



May 2024 Newsletter

PLS May '24 Newsletter at a Glance

New Lessons:

- [Flags: Geometry, Algebra and Cultural Context](#) - Middle School - College
- [The Underground Railroad: Historical Context in Book Covers](#) - Middle School - College
- [Wellness Claims and Social Media](#) - High School - College
- [Music, Media and Messages](#) - Early and Upper Elementary

Lessons for Pride Month

ML3 Newsletter: Librarians as Leaders for Media Literacy

NAMLE Conference: July 14 & 15

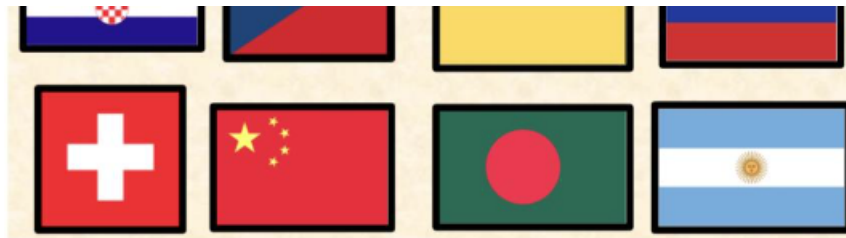
New Lesson:

**Flags: Geometry,
Algebra and Cultural
Context**

*Middle School, High School
& College*



This math and/or social studies lesson has students analyze flags from around the world, to understand aspect ratio, flag design and historical context.



**Media
Decoding
Questions**

1. What is the **aspect ratio** for each flag?
2. Why might flag designers have chosen aspect ratios that are close to the **Golden Ratio**, and how does this relate to the Fibonacci Sequence?
3. What do the **symbols, shapes, and colors** of these flags communicate?
4. What similarities can we identify in the flags of countries that share common **historical or cultural background**?

Other media decoding lessons for Math (filter by level, subject, etc.)

New Lesson:

The Underground Railroad: Historical Context in Book Covers

Middle School - College

Students analyze three book covers to understand historical context, to reflect on how identity impacts interpretation, and to discuss the role of media makers in crafting historical representations.

- How do these different covers make you feel? Why?
- What historical context may have impacted the change in covers?
- How might one's identity impact their interpretations?

Other media decoding lessons about...

Race (search by Level, Subject Area, and/or Keyword, e.g., Asian, slavery, environment)

New Lesson:

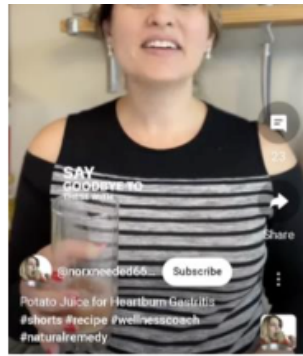
Wellness Claims and Social Media

High School - College



Students analyze 4 social media posts with health/wellness claims and evaluate their credibility.

- What health **claims** are being made in this video and what is their **evidence**?
- What is the **purpose** of this post?
- How did you **research these claims** - How do you know your sources are credible?
- Why are these videos so **popular**?
- How do they tap into our **emotions**?



Other media decoding lessons about.....

Social Media (search by Level, Subject Area, or Keyword, e.g., health, politics, click bait)

New Lesson:

Music, Media, and Meaning

Early and Upper Elementary



- What **feelings** came up when you listened to the different versions?
- What do you think **the creator** of the music wanted you to feel?
- Why might you have had **different feelings** that someone else?

Students analyze a short clip from the beginning of the movie *Lion King* with four different musical accompaniments to recognize how music influences our emotions and communicates different messages.

Media decoding lessons for: Early Elementary or Upper Elementary

Media decoding lessons about Music (filter by Level, Keyword, etc.)

Lessons for Pride Month - June, '2024

SEARCH by Keyword, Subject, or Level

FILTER by Media Type, Standard Duration, etc.

Examples:

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- [Pride Month: Representation and Authorship](#)
- [Pronouns & Gender Identity: Who Gets to Choose?](#)
- [Challenging Homophobia](#)
- [Gay Affirmative or Gay Negative](#)

ML3 National: Librarians as Leaders for Media Literacy

Check out our first **ML3 National Newsletter** at:

https://www.projectlooksharp.org/newsletters/ML3_national_1.pdf

This will update you on our progress in scaling up habits of questioning all media messages for all students through the leadership of K-12 school librarians nationwide. The **ML3 initiative** is supported through a planning grant from the federal Institute for Museum and Library Services.

NAMLE Virtual Conference July 14 & 15, 2024

The National Association for Media Literacy Education hosts the largest professional development conference dedicated to media literacy education in the United States.

From Pre-K to Higher Education, Community Education and Libraries, the conference provides valuable resources, technology, teacher practice and pedagogy, assessments, and core concepts of media literacy education.

Go to the conference website for more information:

<https://conference.namele.org/2023-conference/>

