

ACTIVITY PLAN

Breaking the Glass Ceiling



! NOTE: Please read “How To Use These Materials” for additional support in teaching and adapting this media literacy activity.

Grade Level: High School and College

Objective Options:

- Students will reflect on how historical context shapes perspectives about social change.
- Students will consider how personal perspectives impact choices to act for human rights.
- Students will analyze the words and images used to craft messages in a short film.
- Students discuss the “glass ceiling” for female presidential candidates.



Standards Options

C3 Framework Social Studies Concepts	D2.Civ.10.9-12
	D2.His.5.9-12
	D4.6.9-12
Common Core ELA Standards	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.4
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.7
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.1

Vocabulary:

glass ceiling, Shirley Chisholm, Declaration of Independence, founder, equality, human rights, women’s rights

Media Type(s): documentary film, television program



Chisholm '72: Unbought and Unbossed
Documentary film, PBS, 2005
5:00 min.



Hillary Clinton Breaks the Glass Ceiling
Television Program and Video, 2016
5:15 min.

Preparation and Materials:

*All materials can be downloaded from the PLS website <http://www.projectlooksharp.org>

Preparation:

- Download and review the *How to Use Materials* section associated with this activity.

Materials for the Lesson:

- Two video clips

Additional Support:

- From the website, view [Media Decoding Examples](#) demonstrating classroom media analysis.
- Download the [Key Questions for Analysis](#) for supporting questions.
- [The Teacher's Guide to Media Literacy](#) and the [Do-It-Yourself](#) online guide are both available from the homepage.

Time: 30-60 minutes (dependent on number of questions used)

Activity Procedures:

- Select among possible questions on the next page based on your objectives in teaching to social studies content and/or ELA/media literacy skills.
- Use the selected questions to lead students through a constructivist media decoding process of the two video clips with informational text. *Background* information about the media documents is included at the bottom of the next page. Example student answers are included on the last page.

CONNECTIONS

Connections to *Media Construction of Presidential Campaigns* Lessons on Women Voters

1932: "The Girl I Love is a Democrat" Sheet Music sheet music
1956: Republican Comic Book women
1956: Democratic Convention Program Cover families
1964: MFDP Televised Testimony
1984: Time Ferraro Interview
2000: Newsweek Bush with Oprah African Americans
2000: Newsweek Gore with African American Women
2008: Clinton/ Palin Cartoons

DECODING Q'S

Possible Questions for Media Document Decoding

Select among these based on your teaching objectives. Make questions document-based (i.e. According to this image or video...)

Social Studies

- How does the historical context in which this production was made shape its content?
- How does the life circumstance of the candidate inform her concerns about human rights?
- What roles do government and social movements play in breaking the glass ceiling?
- Who are some people who opened doors for women in politics where you live?

ELA

- What do the phrases “unbought and unbossed” and “breaking the glass ceiling” mean and how do the videos help to define them?
- What different information does each filmmaker use to convey their message about women’s efforts to win the presidency?

Media Literacy

- What techniques did the media producers use to convey the message?
- What values are suggested by this media production?
- What is my interpretation of this and what do I learn about myself from my reaction or interpretation?
- Who is the target audience for this video and how do you know?
- What kinds of actions might I take in response to this video?

Follow up Evidence Questions & Comments

- Where do you see that?
- Say more about that
- How do you know that?
- What makes you say that?
- Does anyone have a different idea?

BACKGROUND & SOURCES

Filmmaker Shola Lynch made the film *Chisholm '72: Unbought & Unbossed* in 2005. It aired on the PBS series of independent non-fiction films, *POV*, a cinema term for “point of view.”

The clip *Hillary Clinton Breaks the Glass Ceiling* is from the televised Democratic National Convention when Hillary Clinton accepted the Democratic Party nomination on July 26, 2016.

Chisholm '72: Unbought and Unbossed. Dir. Shola Lynch. 2005. DVD.

"Hillary Clinton 'Breaks the Glass Ceiling' in Her Introduction Video to the DNC." ABC News. ABC News Network, Web. 12 Sept. 2016.

POSSIBLE ANSWERS

Social Studies

Questions: How does the historical context in and about which this production was made shape its content and where do you see evidence in the film to support your answer?

Possible Answer: *Chisholm:* The film was made about events in 1972 so the historical references are to social concerns and movements of that decade including the Black Panthers, 1960s-era women's rights marches, the moon landing and the Vietnam War.

Evidence: Panthers - photo of men in leather jackets and Afros; marches - photos of women with banners; moon landing - film of men walking on the moon; war - film of a village engulfed in flames

Possible Answer: *Clinton:* The video was made in 2016, the year of Hillary Clinton's nomination as the first woman to be nominated by a major political party. The videographer used imagery of historical events throughout American history to highlight the struggle for universal human rights in the United States including the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Black freedom movements of the 1860s and the 1960s, the women's movements of the suffrage era and the 1960s and the gay liberation movements from the Stonewall rebellion to the Supreme Court's ruling affirming same sex marriage.

Evidence: Declaration of Independence – oil paintings of some of the signers; Black freedom – images of Frederick Douglass and Rosa Parks; Women's movements – images of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Shirley Chisholm; gay liberation – LGBT march and celebration of gay and lesbian partnerships

ELA

Questions: What do the phrases *unbought and unbosserd* and *breaking the glass ceiling* mean and how do the videos help to define them?

Answer: *Unbought and unbosserd* means that Shirley Chisholm is an independent-minded candidate who will not follow the orders of campaign funders. The clip makes this clear when Shirley says, "The hour has come in America when (we) can no longer be the passive recipients of whatever the politics of a nation may decree for us...We will forget what the world will say whether we are in our place or out of our place."

Answer: *Breaking the glass ceiling* means that women achieve a position that has been historically denied them as females. The clip makes this clear when it says "a little girl can be whatever she wants to be – even president" and when the images of all past male presidents appear to shatter like glass to reveal Hillary Clinton poised to accept her Party's nomination.

Media Literacy

Question: What techniques did the media producers use to convey the message?

Possible Answers: *Chisholm* – The filmmaker uses clips of speeches by Shirley Chisholm intercut with images of social movements and working people and interviews with Chisholm supporters backed by a soundtrack of 60s era jazz music to set historical context.

Possible Answers: *Clinton* – Like the other film the videographer uses archival images and popular music recordings to connect the current historic moment to others in the past. The producer of the convention video uses special effects to make it appear that the images of the male presidents shatter onto the stage as Hillary Clinton appears to accept her nomination. The producers then move the camera back to show Clinton standing in a room with young women conveying the idea that their turn to lead is next now that the glass ceiling has been broken.