



November 2024 Newsletter

PLS November '24 Newsletter at a Glance

New Media Decoding Demonstration: *The Signing of the Declaration of Independence*

Lessons for Veterans Day

Lessons for Thanksgiving and Native American Heritage Month

New Lessons for Christmas

News from Project Look Sharp

- EL article: *Teaching Media Literacy in an Infodemic* by Chris Sperry
- *We Can Teach That: Information Literacy for School Librarians*
- DRNY releases *Media Literacy Action Plan for New York*
- 10th annual Media Literacy Week

New CMD Demonstration Video:

**Declaration of
Independence: Sourcing,
Credibility, and Bias**



Project Look Sharp is excited to share our newest Constructivist Media Decoding video demonstration.



Probe for reasoning:
Which ones are reliable?



In this 14 minute video, media literacy maven, Mary Kate Lonergan, leads students through a decoding of 8 documents about the signing of the Declaration of Independence. She facilitates student questions and comments in leading 8th graders through an analysis of the iconic John Trumbull painting, a \$2 bill, a YouTube video, a Wikipedia page, a comic book, an opinion article, and an advertisement – as they evaluate historical fact, sourcing, credibility, purpose, and bias in media messages. This video was produced with funding from the digital newsstand – [PressReader](#) – that is collaborating with Project Look Sharp on [media literacy education](#).

Veterans Day – Media Decoding Lesson:

[Veterans' Statues: Reading the Messages](#)

Students analyze sculptures of war veterans for messages about purpose, point of view and meaning.



Questions for Media Analysis:

- What war or veterans' group is being honored here?
- How are the different wars presented similarly or differently?

See more than 100 other free media decoding lessons related to [war](#) – filter by *level*, *subject*, etc.

Lessons for Thanksgiving:

[Squanto and the First Thanksgiving: Whose Story?](#) - Upper Elementary

Students analyze excerpts from three children's books for differing perspectives and messages about the history of Squanto's role in the first Thanksgiving feast.



Questions for Media Analysis:

- Why might the



Wampanoag and the English settlers view the Plymouth settlement differently?

- Why might different authors explain historical events in different ways?
- How would you decide which of these books is most true to what really happened and why?

Thanksgiving: Who's Telling the Story? - Middle School - College

Students analyze short videos for messages about the meanings and impacts of the stories surrounding Thanksgiving.

Questions for Media Analysis:



- According to this video how does one's cultural identity inform one's understanding of Thanksgiving?
- How does the mission of the producer shape their messages about Thanksgiving?

The Invention of Thanksgiving.

National Museum of the American Indian

When is Thanksgiving Day and Why is it Celebrated?

AlJazeera AJ+

The Pilgrims and the First Thanksgiving.

PBS American Experience

42 Lessons for **Native American Heritage Month**, including:

Trails of Tears: Who's Telling the Stories and How? Middle – High School

Pocahontas: Can We Really Know Who She Was? Upper Elementary – Middle School

Indigenous Media Making: Affirming Identity Middle School - College

First Contact: Who's Telling the Story? Upper Elementary – College

New Christmas Love Lessons: School librarian Lila Page collaborated with Project Look Sharp in creating two different lessons using the short video commercial "Christmas Love" for the British Department Store John Lewis.

For Early and Upper Elementary

[Christmas Love: SEL and Media Literacy](#)

This lesson can teach to SEL objectives by having students identify emotions through facial expressions and/or media literacy objectives by having students analyze the messages & techniques used in a commercial.

Questions for Media Analysis:

- What emotions are shown in the faces of the snow people and children?
- What is the purpose of this video? How do you know?



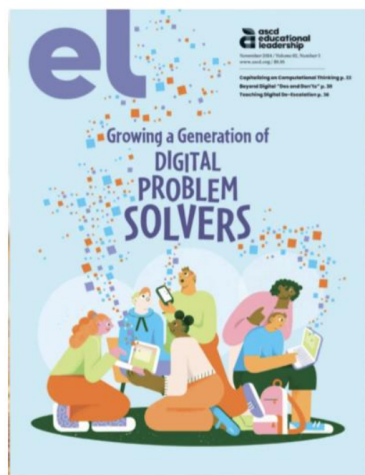
For Middle and High School

[Christmas Love: Advertising, Emotions and Literary Elements](#)

Students analyze a short video commercial about “Christmas Love” for its purpose, the elements and techniques of storytelling, and to reflect on the role of emotion and identity in interpretation of media messages.

New Publications:

Chris Sperry, PLS co-founder and Director of Curriculum and Staff Development, has a new article and book chapter about PLS's work.



The October issue of ASCD's [Educational Leadership](#) magazine includes Chris' article *Teaching Media Literacy in an Infodemic*.



The new Rowman & Littlefield book [We Can Teach That: Information Literacy for School Librarians](#), edited by Ewa Dziedzic-Elliott, includes Chris' chapter: *Teaching Students to Decode the World*.



New York State [Strategic Plan for Media Literacy](#)

PLS has collaborated with [Democracy Ready New York](#), and the Center for Educational Equity at Teacher's College Columbia, on this exciting new [Media Literacy Strategic Plan](#)

The plan calls for the NYS Department of Education to:

1. Establish an intergenerational New

[for New York State.](#)



York State Task Force for Media Literacy Integration.

2. **Identify and fund pilots** to scale promising programs emerging across the state to prepare educators to provide media literacy education.
3. Expand efforts to ensure **certified school librarians in all New York schools.**

The plan highlights our [ML3 Initiative](#) (Librarians as Leaders of Media Literacy) as an example of a NYS pilot that needs funding to scale all students in New York.

10th annual Media Literacy Week

Congratulations to NAMLE for a terrific [Media Literacy Week](#) Oct. 21-25. In just one decade the [National Association for Media Literacy Education](#) has stewarded this event into a major global celebration of resources, scholarship, and models for state-of-the-art media literacy education. Consider submitting a proposal for the [NAMLE's July 11-12, 2025 conference](#).

