Constructivist Media Decoding (CMD)

STARTER KIT

for College

This kit gives you the resources and steps you need to begin integrating Constructivist Media Decoding into your work with students.

WHAT DO I NEED?

- Constructivist Media Decoding - Why and How? (2 min.)
- The Impact of CMD - Student Voices (1 min.)
- Project Look Sharp Free Resources for CMD (2 min.)
- Watch a Short CMD Demonstration Video

WHAT IS CMD?

- A student-centered, curiosity-driven teaching method
- Where ALL students at all levels develop habits of questioning through media analysis

WHY CMD?

- Prepares for a decoding
- Leading a decoding
- In the classroom
- Developing critical thinking
- Builds student agency
- Engages all students
- And teaches core subject-area standards
- Develops habits of critical thinking
- Engages all students

HOW TO GET STARTED?

1. Brainstorm upcoming CMD opportunities
   - What content will my students be learning?
   - What media can target my curricular goals?
   - And be engaging for all my students?

2. Review Tips for Decoding
   - Preparing for a decoding
   - Leading a decoding
   - Cautions

3. Select a Lesson
   - Search Project Look Sharp’s website, e.g., College
   - To narrow your search, add a Keyword or FILTER by Subject, Media Type, Duration, etc.
   - This may not be a perfect match, but it’s a starting point!

4. Plan Your Lesson
   - What are your objectives?
   - What questions can you ask students to meet your lesson’s objectives?
   - What follow-up questions will help student thinking?
   - What background knowledge do your students need for the decoding?
   - Will your media documents be accessible to all students?

5. Teach Your Media Decoding Lesson!
   - After the lesson, REFLECT:
     - What was successful?
     - What was challenging?
     - Use the Self-evaluation Checklist

Find more CMD lessons at

or use our guide to create your own!