Constructivist Media Decoding
STARTER KIT
for ELA 6-12

PROJECT LOOK SHARP
ITHACA COLLEGE

WHAT IS CMD?

Constructivist Media Decoding (CMD)

is a **core content** **inquiry-based** teaching method where **ALL students** at **all levels** develop **habits of questioning** through **media analysis.**

WHY CMD?

THIS APPROACH IS

inquiry-based   student-centered   curriculum-driven

AND   teaches core subject-area standards

develops habits of critical thinking

builds student agency

engages all students

WHAT IS IN THIS KIT?

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

HOW TO GET STARTED?

WATCH:

▶ **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**

PLAN A CMD

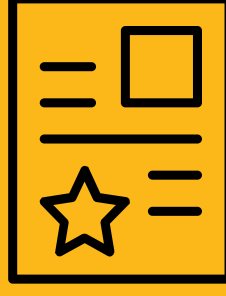## STEP 1: Brainstorm upcoming CMD opportunities

What content will my students be learning?

What media can target my curricular goals?

And be engaging for all my students?

What content and media literacy questions should I ask?

PLAN A CMD

STEP 2: Review Tips for Decoding:

- Preparing for a decoding
- Leading a decoding
- Cautions

PLAN A CMD

STEP 3: Select a Lesson

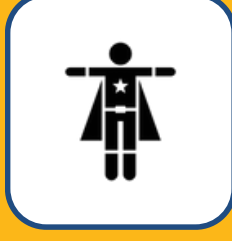**Search Project Look Sharp's website, e.g., ELA: 6-12**
To narrow your search, add a *Keyword* or FILTER by *Subject, Media Type, Duration*, etc.

OR

Still not sure? Choose one of the lessons below:
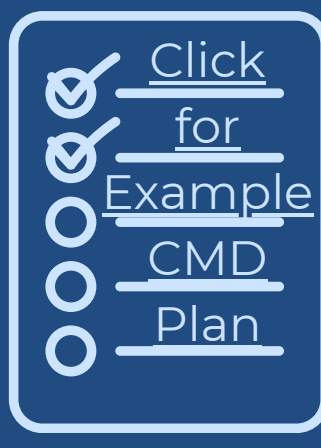
Twister: A Film Decoding Activity

Female Superheroes: Changing Power Over Time

Global Perspectives Through Movie Posters

PLAN A CMD

STEP 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
  → deepen student thinking?
  → help them teach each other?
- What background knowledge do your students need for the decoding?
- Will your media documents be accessible to all students?

Click for Example CMD Plan

LEAD A CMD

STEP 5: Teach Your Media Decoding Lesson!

After the lesson, REFLECT:

What was successful?

What was challenging?

Use the Self-evaluation Checklist

NEXT STEPS

Find more CMD lessons at

PROJECT LOOK SHARP

or use our DIY guide to create your own!

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