Decoding Media Bias – Lesson Plan

After completing the lesson, have students share their thoughts about the media via social media! Using the Twitter #DecodingMediaBias, answer the following question: In what ways do you think the media shows bias?

Subjects
U.S. History, U.S. Government, Civics

Estimated Time
One to two 50-minute class periods

Grade Level
7-12

Essential Question
In what ways can the news media show bias?

Objective
To examine where people in the U.S. get their news, how news selection amplifies one’s political views, and how media organizations decide to cover stories.

Overview
Students will view the We The Voters film “Mediocracy,” and then examine current news stories and how they’re covered by the three main cable news outlets. They will conclude by examining news stories for bias/point of view.

Materials
We The Voters film, “Mediocracy”
Copies of Student Handout #1: Media Website Examination
CNN: http://www.cnn.com
Fox News: http://www.foxnews.com
MSNBC: http://www.msnbc.com

The Materials You Need
Decoding Media Bias – Lesson Plan
Handout 1: Media Website Examination

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Procedure

Warm Up: Ask students: Where do you go to read the news? [If students state social media, where specifically? Whom do they follow? If students state TV, which programs?] Why do you go there? What other options do you have?

Film Viewing: Have students view the We The Voters film “Mediocracy.” Discuss how their responses during the warm-up discussion may have aligned with the idea of “incessant amplification” (selecting news sources to reinforce our own views) as defined in the film.

We The Voters - Mediocracy
from FilmBuff

05:34

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RSS Content

President Trump’s First 100 Days Lesson Plan
Discuss, debate and consider President Donald Trump’s goals for the United States by focusing
Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, as well as in words) in order to address a question or solve a problem.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.7-12.8
Evaluate an author’s premises, claims, and evidence by corroborating or challenging them with other information.

Standards from Social Studies for the Next Generation: College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework

D2Civ.2.9-12 Analyze the role of citizens in the U.S. political system.
D2Civ.5.9-12 Evaluate citizens’ and institutions’ effectiveness in addressing social and political problems at the local, state, tribal, national, and/or international level.
D2Civ.9.9-12 Use appropriate deliberative processes in multiple settings.
D2Civ.14.9-12 Analyze historical, contemporary, and emerging means of changing societies, promoting the common good, and protecting rights.

National Standards for Civics and Government (Center for Civic Education)

Standard 11: Understands the role of diversity in American life and the importance of shared values, political beliefs, and civic beliefs in an increasingly diverse American society
Standard 19: Understands what is meant by “the public agenda,” how it is set, and how it is influenced by public opinion and the media.
Standard 20: Understands the role of political parties, campaigns, elections, and associations and groups in American politics.

Tags: BIAS CABLE NETWORKS CIVICS ELECTION 2016 GOVERNMENT GOVERNMENT & CIVICS MEDIA MEDIA BIAS MEDIA LITERACY NEWS NEWS MEDIA NEWS ORGANIZATIONS SOCIAL STUDIES

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