

Lesson Plan Assignment for Learning Weeks New Media Literacies

In this assignment, you will prepare a lesson plan on a new media literacy of your choice and teach it to the class. You are expected to work with at least one other student to plan and teach a lesson around a literacy practice, technique, medium, or some combination of media literacies. It's your choice, but the focus should be on something regular and almost mundane. Some examples of lessons might include the ideas below.

- How to set up a blog, choose a domain name, buy web space, define the purpose of the blog, title it, publicize it, choose a theme and layout, etc. This could also include building a MySpace page or adding content to a Facebook page or group.
- Making videos and uploading them to YouTube (or some other other online video site) and publicizing it. This should include reflection on the content of the video, what its purpose is, why video (and not print), etc.
- The ins-and-outs of filesharing, including thoughts about copyright, creative commons, fair use, etc. This might include Bit Torrent or mp3 sharing and the choices we make when we participate in this activity, how we know what we know, whether we care, why, etc.

The goals of the assignment are:

- Gain experience preparing and executing a lesson plan targeted toward K-12 students in a media literacy learning environment of your choice (after-school, public school, home school, etc.);
- Apply theories of media, literacy, textual studies, and learning;
- Think critically about how theory and practice relate in media education contexts; and
- Work with another student to reflect on the media literacy D/discourses you practice and embody.
- Have fun! This should be an enjoyable experience!

You will be evaluated on:

- The degree to which you successfully communicate the relationship of your lesson to the NML course content and how one informs the other;
- The degree of detail and thoughtfulness of the lesson plan (see example at <http://www.pbs.org/inthemix/educators/lessons/selfimage1/>);
- Engagement of the learners with the materials presented;
- Your ability to present the goals of the assignment and your expectations for learning.

Students are expected to work in pairs and consult with the teaching assistant several days' prior to the lesson so as to establish and brainstorm ideas, decide on materials needed, and reflect on the goals for the lesson. The teaching assistant will be primarily responsible for assessment of the activity, but I will decide the final grade based on his written evaluation and our conversational follow-up.

I will provide several models of lesson plans and post them on the course website for your reference. Please feel free to consult with us prior to writing and submitting the lesson plan. The written lesson plan should be turned in to Neal at the start of the class you are assigned to teach.

Each enrolled student will take the lead as a "primary" on at least one lesson during a learning week and will act as "secondary" on another. Your work on both assignments (primary and secondary) will be evaluated and your grade will be averaged and weighted on a 60/40 basis.