E/LA Virtual Learning

English I

April 30th, 2020

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Lesson: April 30th, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:
Explain and analyze how ideas are portrayed in different media.

Do Now:

When you hear the phrase "education achievement gap" what comes to mind? What do you think this might mean? Based on what you wrote, what are you wondering about this phrase?"

Do Now, ex.

The word *gap* makes me think that there is an empty space. *Achievement* as an adjective that some achieve differently than others. The fact that it's an *educational achievement gap* makes me think that some people are doing better in school than others.

I'm wondering, which people, and why?

Lesson: How are ideas communicated in different media?

For the purposes of our work today, we're going to think of everything as a "text." We're going to look at three different texts today, each in a different medium: an article, a cartoon embedded in that article, and a video.

You'll be asked to track the ways these different media present information, and what ideas you find therein.

Lesson: How are ideas communicated in different media?

Content constructors will make choices about how things are communicated based on the medium in which they are working.

For example, a poet writing about the horrors of war might compose something [like this](#) while a painter might compose something [like this](#).

So, what differences do you notice between how war is depicted in these two different media?

Lesson: How are ideas communicated in different media?

Example answer: The Ezra Pound poem is very orderly and organized, which emphasizes war as a mechanical process that harms human life. The poet's word choice helps him communicate his thinking.

The Picasso painting is chaotic and disorganized, emphasizing the confusing nature of war. The structure of the painting helps the painter communicate his thinking.

So, which piece better depicts the suffering of war?

Lesson: How are ideas communicated in different media?

Example answer: I think Picasso's painting better communicates suffering. The agony on the figure's faces is visible to the viewer. I think Pound's poem better communicates the speaker's disdain for war and its glorification.

Activity: View media, complete chart

- Follow the following links to view different media about the educational achievement gap:
  - [Video](#)
  - [Article](#)
  - [Cartoon](#)
- For the Article and the Cartoon, you'll need to File-Make a Copy so that you can use the Comment feature on Google Docs to annotate.
  - Replace "Copy of" with your name in the document title.
- When you have read and viewed the attached media, use [this handout](#) to explore how the ideas on the topic of the achievement gap are portrayed in different media.

Activity: Writing

Now that you've viewed the media and completed the chart, choose one of the media examples and compose a writing to **one** of the following prompts:

1. What do you most agree with about this piece?
2. What flaws in reasoning can you find in this piece?

Activity: Writing, ex.

2. The video rests on a couple of risky assumptions. The first is that there are home-based issues that prevent students who live in poverty from having an equal opportunity at success. While this may be true for some families, there are certainly families living in poverty who do not have these issues. The second is that the best way to solve the problem is through social programs aimed at leveling the playing field, when in reality, there may be other options that the creators of the video do not explore.

Reflection, Extension

Think about the media you consume. How do you get your information? How do you know if it is reliable? How might the choices made by the creators of that content influence you without you knowing it?

You can watch [this Ted Talk about Confirmation Bias](#) if you're interested in learning more.