

Lesson Plan Template

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Sociology 230 Race and Racism

Topic: Deconstructing Racist Memes and “Conventional Knowledge”

Objectives:

- Students learn to use research to evaluate claims they see on social media.

Materials:

- Computer lab with access to the internet.

Activity:

(10 Minutes) Guided deconstruction of a racist meme.

- Librarian shares a meme found on social media that appears to present actual facts. The meme I have been using is based on police violence toward whites vs. African Americans.
- Students use Google and/or library resources to research some of the claims made in the meme. I prefer doing this activity in pairs, but individually or small groups could also work. some inter
- Students verbally report out some of their findings. Alternatively, their findings could be put into a shared Google Doc.
- This in-class activity mirrors the works students will need to do to complete a research paper based on deconstructing an online “artifact” that deals with race and racism. This assignment will be shared as part of the presentation.

Assessment:

- This in-class activity prepares students to write a 4-6 page research paper on the same topic. Student performance on this paper indicates whether they grasped concepts from the instruction session. The paper rubric will be shared as part of this presentation.

ACRL Information Literacy Framework:

- Authority is Constructed and Contextual
 - motivate themselves to find authoritative sources, recognizing that authority may be conferred or manifested in unexpected ways;
 - develop awareness of the importance of assessing content with a skeptical stance and with a self-awareness of their own biases and worldview;

- question traditional notions of granting authority and recognize the value of diverse ideas and worldviews;
- Research as Inquiry
 - monitor gathered information and assess for gaps or weaknesses;
 - draw reasonable conclusions based on the analysis and interpretation of information
 - appreciate that a question may appear to be simple but still disruptive and important to research;
 - maintain an open mind and a critical stance;
- Searching as Strategic Exploration
 - match information needs and search strategies to appropriate search tools;
 - realize that information sources vary greatly in content and format and have varying relevance and value, depending on the needs and nature of the search
 - persist in the face of search challenges, and know when they have enough information to complete the information task