

Analysis of Mass Media Lesson Plan in Psych 20 Curriculum

The lesson plan for teaching Mass Media provided in the Curriculum is fairly well laid out and easy to follow. The lesson plans have several ideas for multiple learning abilities, including several topics for in-class discussions or informal presentations. My personal favorite was the discussion on "'Movies for guys who like movies' and 'Chick-flicks'". I feel that this one was very good because it helps students to relate what they are learning in class to their own experiences.

That being said, I feel that while this lesson plan is a good place to start from when working out how to teach Mass Media I feel that the lesson is very superficial and does not delve deeply into critical analysis of the effects media has on our culture. These lesson plans remain at a level of identifying different forms of media and advertisements and then creating their own without asking the students to question or challenge how advertisements have impacted or influenced their own perspectives.

Another issue I had with these is that none of the information is sourced well, when I tried to find out which studies they were citing I was unable to do so in order to verify the legitimacy of their information and expand my knowledge. The difficulty with this is that it will be very hard to provide students with more information or answer questions they may have about a topic when the curriculum is unclear about where the information is coming from.

While they are unclear about where their information is coming from, the links to resources for teachers to develop projects provides links to local resources. Both of the resources provided are from within Saskatchewan which means that there is information that students can seek out which will actually pertain to them.

Overall I feel that the lesson plan provided by the Curriculum is good as a basis for beginning to teach Mass Media, however I feel that much more can be done with Media and advertising than is done in these plans. I have found in the past that media and advertising is a popular topic with students and that they will do a lot of very good work on critically analyzing media if they are given the foundation to do so. I would suggest for any teachers who will be teaching Psych 20 to take a look at these plans to help them develop their lesson plans, but to try and expand on what is there.