

## Media Literacy: The Challenge of Mindsets

In-class activity

3/19/07

Today in class we'll compare a few selected lesson plans from various websites where teachers and students can search for lesson plans, learning materials, and media resources. As you work on this assignment, I'd like you to think carefully about the Lankshear and Knobel chapter you read for today. Keep in mind the authors' arguments and positions on media and 'new' literacies as you examine the sites I list below.

In groups of two, I'd like you to browse one or more of the following lesson plans from these URLs:

- <http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/lessons/media/>
- <http://warrensburg.k12.mo.us/webquest/media/index.htm>
- [http://www.pbs.org/mythsandheroes/tguide\\_jason.html](http://www.pbs.org/mythsandheroes/tguide_jason.html)
- <http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/mediastudies.html>

Please note your group's reactions to some of the following questions:

1. What is the 'mindset,' as Lankshear and Knobel define it, of each site (mindset 1, or 2)? How do you know? Do the sites or lesson plans reflect some combination of those mindsets? Where do you see that?
2. What are the relationships between 'taxonomies' and 'folksonomies' that you can see present in these sites/plans? Where does each site recognize either or both?
3. How do these sites/plans reflect traditional literacy? What about 'new' literacies? Where do you see that? How do you know?
4. If there's time, think about how you might revise one or more of these lesson plans to reflect a new media literacies framework.