Digital Literacy and Social Justice

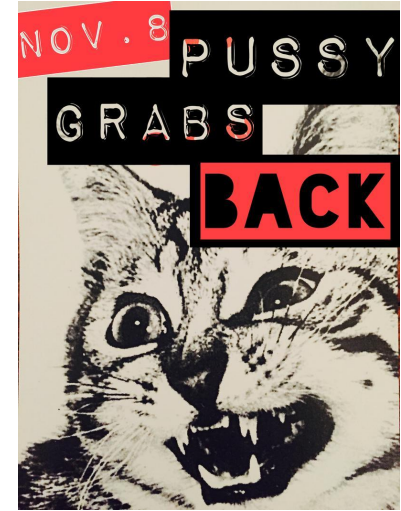By: Nick Kruks, Hannah Sharples, Eliza Beaudry, Colin Benoit, and Kathleen Wick

"Digital literacy is the ability to use information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information, requiring both cognitive and technical skills." -- American Library Association's digital-literacy task force

Why is this Important?

- Students need to know <u>they can make a difference</u>!

- Students need to be able to *recognize* <u>real-world problems</u> and *critically* <u>engage</u> with these issues.

- Students need to develop the <u>critical thinking, collaboration, and self-reflection skills</u> necessary to foster a better society.
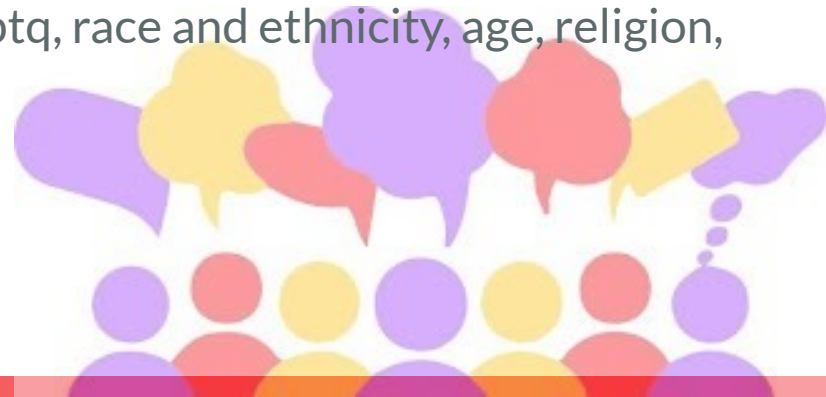 - This is one of a teacher's most important roles.

Why is this Important?

- Students need to learn how to have <u>productive conversations/debates</u>
  - share their ideas
  - respond to ideas of others in a way that allows for <u>disagreement</u> but still <u>values the other's perspective.</u>

- Learn to identity <u>when a conversation turns from debate into bullying</u>
  - how to deal with this and/or walk away

- Social justice and Digital literacy can't be taught in one easy lesson
  - <u>Value that gets integrated into the teaching philosophies and actions of teachers.</u>

- By scaffolding students in social justice and digital literacy, teachers can help students
  - <u>start asking the right questions</u> and
  - then <u>participate</u> in ways that are <u>purposeful</u> and <u>productive</u>.

How can teachers encourage students to begin exploring social justice issues?

❏ Including students' voice and choice when teaching about various social justice movements and advocacy is important -- our interest in issues often lies within a desire to understand and critically think about own identity (and the various facets within it) as well as others'.

❏ Some facets of social justice: age, gender, lgbtq, race and ethnicity, age, religion, ability

➔ **To encourage students to begin exploring social justice issues they feel passionate about, teachers can:**

❏ Ask students to think about what makes up their identity & what aspects of their identity they feel most connected to

❏ Ask students to consider how their identity has been shaped by media that they have seen

❏ Ask students to find an example of media that has impacted them in some way

❏ Show media that highlights some social justice issues

   ❏ Critical Media Project is an excellent resource

How can teachers encourage students to critically assess the digital media they see?

➔ **By posing questions such as:**

❏ Who created the message behind the media I'm viewing?

❏ What creative techniques are used to attract my attention?

❏ How might different people understand this message differently from me?

❏ What lifestyles, values and points of view are represented in, or missing from, this message?

❏ Why was this message sent?

Considerations

❏ Digital literacy and use of technology does not always mitigate inequity in education

❏ Digital literacy is more than "plugging in". If you are interacting with digital literacy effectively it should add to and be an authentic learning experience

https://www.pdsttechnologyineducation.ie/en/NEWS/Developing-Digital-Literacy-Skills.html

More Considerations

- ❏ Some parents may have reservations about their child's online presence which may limit digital literacy options
- ❏ One should scaffold learners to be critical of social justice movements as sometimes social justice movements do not benefit all people or are not as legitimate as they initially seem

Considerations Continued

❏   A teacher should be aware of their learners' competence within digital literacy as what technology and platforms you use should be informed by this

❏   It is important to remember that not all schools will have plentiful access to technology so this may limit what you can do with digital literacy

Multimodalities of Digital Literacy & Social Justice

What are Multimodalities?

Combinations of any of the following:

Reading

Writing

Listening

Speaking

Viewing

Multimodal Texts to Include in the Classroom

- ❏ Infographics
- ❏ Videos
- ❏ Websites
- ❏ Photographs
- ❏ Interactive learning
- ❏ Radio spots
- ❏ Podcasts

Infographics: Carbon Cycle Worksheet

Videos: Pink Shirt Day

Websites: Women's Movement

Photographs: Napalm

Interactive Learning: Thinglink

Radio spots: Nick's Radio Show

Podcasts: These Walls

Social Media

Twitter

Facebook

Instagram

Ticktock

Snapchat

WhatsApp

Connection to Literacy

Big Ideas:

❏ Exploring stories and other texts helps us understand ourselves and make connections to others and to the world.
❏ Exploring and sharing multiple perspectives extends our thinking.
❏ Questioning what we hear, read, and view contributes to our ability to be educated and engaged citizens.
  ❏ In the age of technology, digital literacy is possibly the most authentic and meaningful to way to explore these big ideas.

Connection to Literacy

Curricular Competencies

❏ Comprehend and connect (reading, listening, viewing)
  ❏ **Research** Social Justice using digital media
    ❏ Narrow or focused
    ❏ Understanding purpose or meaning, making connections

❏ Create and communicate (writing, speaking, representing)
  ❏ **Participation** in digital social justice
    ❏ Forums, blogging, online discussion and debate
    ❏ Share perspectives, creating shared understanding
  ❏ **Creation** of materials or movements
    ❏ Independent step forward
    ❏ Constructing meaning or ideas

#activity

Women's movement

#WomenShould   **#YesAllWomen**

#Timesup   **#WhyIStayed**

#Heforshe   **#IWillGoOut**

#Orange the world   **#GenerationEquality**

#BringBackOurGirls   **#EverydaySexism**

Pink Shirt Day

#pinkshirtday

#kindnessweek

#bullyingawareness

#stopbullying

#blacklivesmatter

#blacklivesmatter
#whatmatters2020
#blackvote

Resources Used:

Considerations:

http://sites.middlebury.edu/bltnmag/2014/12/07/digital-literacy-social-justice/

https://www.literacyworldwide.org/docs/default-source/where-we-stand/ila-improving-digital-practices-literacy-learning-justice.pdf

https://www.bitchmedia.org/article/inside-job-facebook/organizing-groups-online/zuckerberg-2

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/padwxn/trendy-social-activists-prove-instagram-is-a-platform-for-more-than-selfies

https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/english/literacy/multimodal/Pages/createmultimodal.aspx

https://criticalmediaproject.org/media-literacies/