



Course Overview

This course will provide you with all the tools to implement a media literacy for violence prevention curriculum in the elementary classroom and to facilitate informed, practical conversations about media. With a strong focus on critical thinking, analysis and deconstruction, this course will give you a greater awareness of some of the key issues pertaining to media literacy and the skills to help your students become more effective consumers and producers of media content.

As educators you most likely witness first-hand the impact of media on your students. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics Media exposure may contribute significantly to obesity, poor nutrition, cigarette & alcohol use, violent, aggressive and anti-social behavior, risky sexual attitudes and behavior, poor self-image and low self-esteem, nightmares, disrupted sleep, anxiety and lowered academic achievement. [Pediatrics, December 2006]

Of particular concern to many parents and teachers is the impact that media has on violent behavior. Media literacy has been identified as an effective intervention, but how do we teach media literacy to younger learners? In this two week, facilitated course you'll be engaging in activities and online discussions to build your knowledge of media literacy and the Media Literacy for Safe and Healthy Choices curriculum, with an eye toward practical implementation in the classroom. Most of the activities are based on activities that you can actually use with your students so there is an explicit focus on learning the curriculum by experiencing it.

Throughout the course, opportunities are provided for you to connect your learning across sessions and to explicitly consider the implications of your learning for your classroom practice. You will also be able to revisit your work and reflections by viewing your individual Course Portfolios.