

Teaching the Hipsters:  
Incorporating Art and Politics into  
Creative Library Instruction

Picture of four hipsters (two guys and two girls)

# Teaching Responsibilities

- Help student figure out a topic
- Instruct students how to use library resources
- Teach how to evaluate sources
- Let students know they can come to the library for help

“Students do not want cookie-cutter lessons from books. Much better are creative approaches within the partnering framework. Some of these can be tied to current events... others can be tied to student passions... still others can be tied to students’ immediate reality.”

Marc Prensky from *Teaching Digital Natives: Partnering for Real Learning*

# Partnering framework is....

student centered learning

problem-based learning

project-based learning

case-based learning

inquiry-based learning

active learning

constructivism

learning by doing

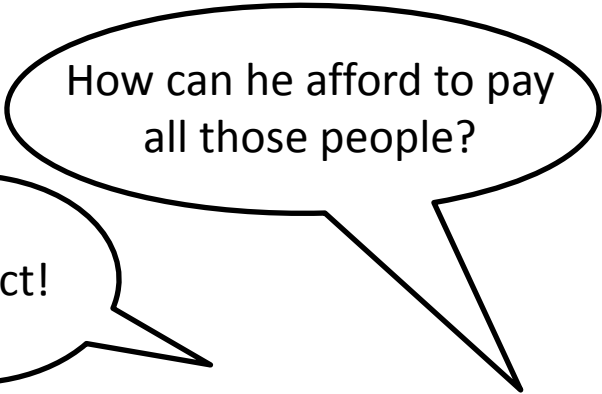
# Additional Teaching Objectives

- Get the students involved in a *real* problem, project, or case
- Do activities in which everyone will participate
- Teach research tactics and resources students could use immediately

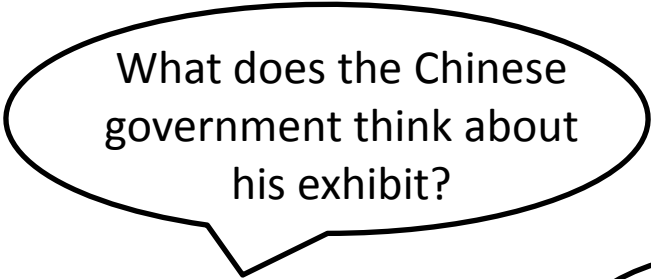
Selecting a *real* example

Picture of Ai Weiwei Sunflower Seeds (close up)






How can he afford to pay  
all those people?



What does the Chinese  
government think about  
his exhibit?



Respect!



Who is  
Chairman Mao?

Picture of four hipsters (two guys and two girls)

Ai Weiwei has earned our respect

Why?

Do other nations like Ai Weiwei?

How can Ai Weiwei afford to pay all 1600 workers?

Does he have a sponsor?

If he paid for it, how did he earn his wealth?

What does the Chinese government think about his exhibit?

How do we know?

Will Ai Weiwei get in trouble?

Do I like him?

Who is Chairman Mao?

What are his political beliefs and opinions?

Ai Weiwei has  
earned our respect

Why?

Do other  
nations like  
Ai Weiwei?

Picture of Ai Weiwei taking a selfie

Picture of Ai Weiwei dancing Gangnam style

Picture of Ai Weiwei typing on a computer

Picture of hipster wearing Free Ai Weiwei shirt

Ai Weiwei has earned our respect

Why?

Picture of Ai Weiwei taking a selfie

Blogs

Tweets

Do other nations like Ai Weiwei?

Picture of Ai Weiwei dancing Gangnam style

Advocates independent thinking and art

Picture of Ai Weiwei talking to reporters

YES!

Picture of hipster wearing Free Ai Weiwei shirt

Cultural criticism

Political activist

Tate Museum sign

Aware of lost Chinese art skills

Gives Chinese people work

Picture of Ai Weiwei Sunflower Seeds (close up)

Art museums around the world with Free Ai Weiwei signs

Porcelain

Jingdezhen

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How do I find scholarly resources  
for really current events?

Compare the current event to one  
from the past



Use online material from  
professional or academic sources

Substance

Currency

Authority

Relevance

Accuracy

Bias

Substance

Currency

Authority

Relevance

Accuracy

Bias

Practice evaluating sources as a class

“I always think art is a tool to set up really new questions, to create a basic structure which can be open to possibilities.”

Ai Weiwei

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