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)
Respect!

How can he afford to pay all those people?

What does the Chinese government think about his exhibit?

Who is Chairman Mao?

Picture of four hipsters (two guys and two girls)
Ai Weiwei has earned our respect

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 Gangam 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

Do other nations like Ai Weiwei?

YES!

Tate Museum sign

Art museums around the world with Free Ai Weiwei signs

Advocates independent thinking and art

Picture of Ai Weiwei dancing Gangam style

Cultural criticism

Picture of hipster wearing Free Ai Weiwei shirt

Aware of lost Chinese art skills

Gives Chinese people work

Porcelain

Jingdezhen

Picture of Ai Weiwei Sunflower Seeds (close up)

Political activist

Picture of Ai Weiwei talking to reporters
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Picture of Ai Weiwei talking to reporters
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
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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