Super Bowl Ads: Media Literacy Questions

USING SUPER BOWL ADS IN THE CLASSROOM

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Here are some questions you might have your students ponder before the game:

- 1. What are the purposes of advertising, other than to sell?
- 2. What do you know about the Super Bowl game? Where did you learn it?
- 3. Why does the game get tremendous media attention every year?

- 4. What compels some advertisers to want to put their ads on this once-a-year sporting event?
- 5. Why does ad time cost \$6 million for just one 30-second ad?
- 6. Who decides what order the ads air during the game?
- 7. How do advertisers create buzz about their ads, even before the game is broadcast?
- 8. How do ads/brands use "social media" before the game is played?
- 9. Create a chart listing the known advertisers and their parent companies.
- 10. Which ad(s) are you looking forward to viewing and why?
- 11. How do advertisers make money from their Super Bowl spots?
- 12. Might you find ads inside/outside/above the stadium? If so, where?
 - Be on the lookout for not-so-obvious ads during the broadcast. (Students might want to create a list)
- 13. Who benefits from Super Bowl advertising?

Here are some questions to consider after the game:

- 1. How many ads were for: alcohol? soft drinks? snacks? animals? cars? movies? Why is this so?
- 2. Which ads were political? How did you know?
- 3. What ad(s) did you find most entertaining, and why? (students should be specific and give details here)
- 4. What ad(s) did you find the most dull, and why?
- 5. Which ad(s) did you think were most effective, and why?
- 6. Which ad(s) were you most willing to share on social media, or via tweet, or email?
- 7. Which ad(s) featured well-known personalities? Why?
- 8. Total up the number of people (gender, children, ethnicity, etc.) seen in the ads and consider those not seen. What conclusions did you make?