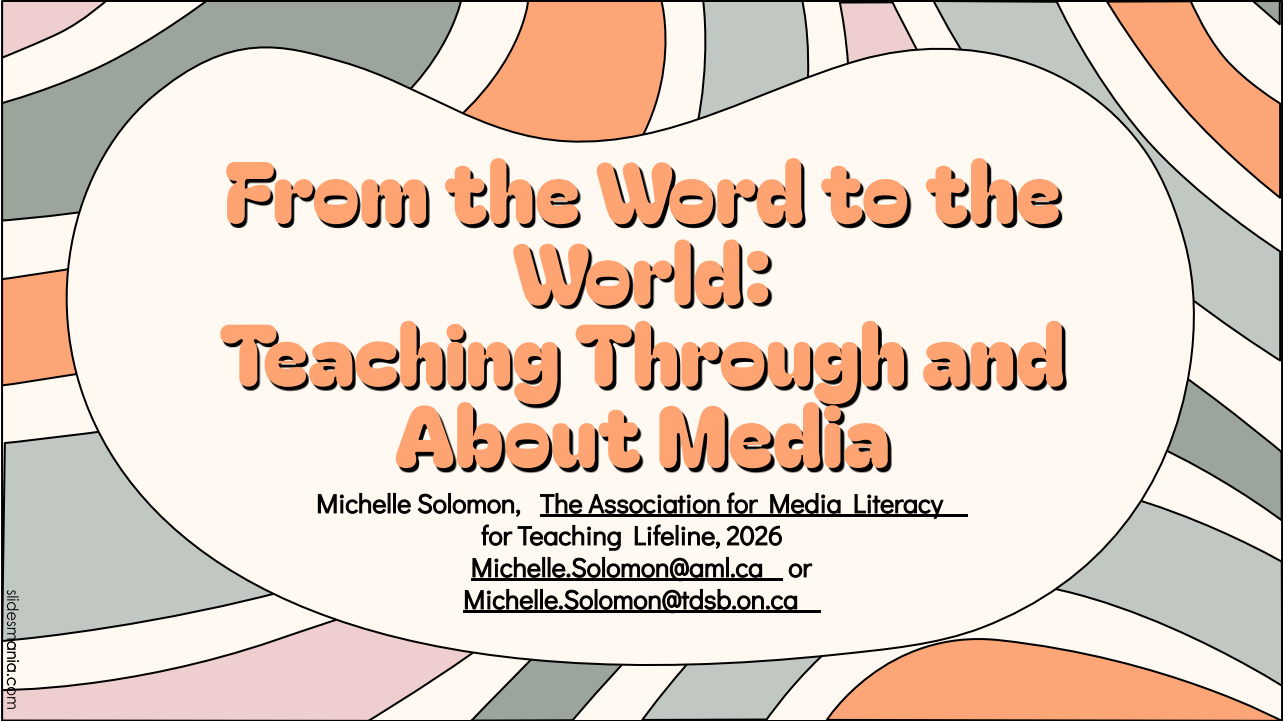




From the Word to the World: Teaching Through and About Media

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for Teaching Lifeline, 2026
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**What's
happening here?**



For more info: <https://nowtoronto.com/news/bts-boulevard-toronto-army-hybe/>

Media Literacy:

We looked at the same thing, but did not see the same thing.

Media analysis does not require fancy new tech, apps or resources. It does not take time away from the lesson; it **IS** the lesson.

Media Literacy is not a “natural” or ingrained skill. Neither is reading. They are “bolted on, not pre-wired.” Both must be explicitly taught.

Right to Read,
OHRC, 2022

What Changed in 2023?

One Word: "Text"

In the definition, "Electronic" became "digital." In 2006 that meant formats you held; the document still referenced CDs and DVDs. "Digital" covers what is networked, algorithmic, and participatory.

**Same sentence,
different word.**

One Sentence (added)

"Texts can take multiple forms and include multiple modes such as an artifact imbued with interwoven meaning(s)."

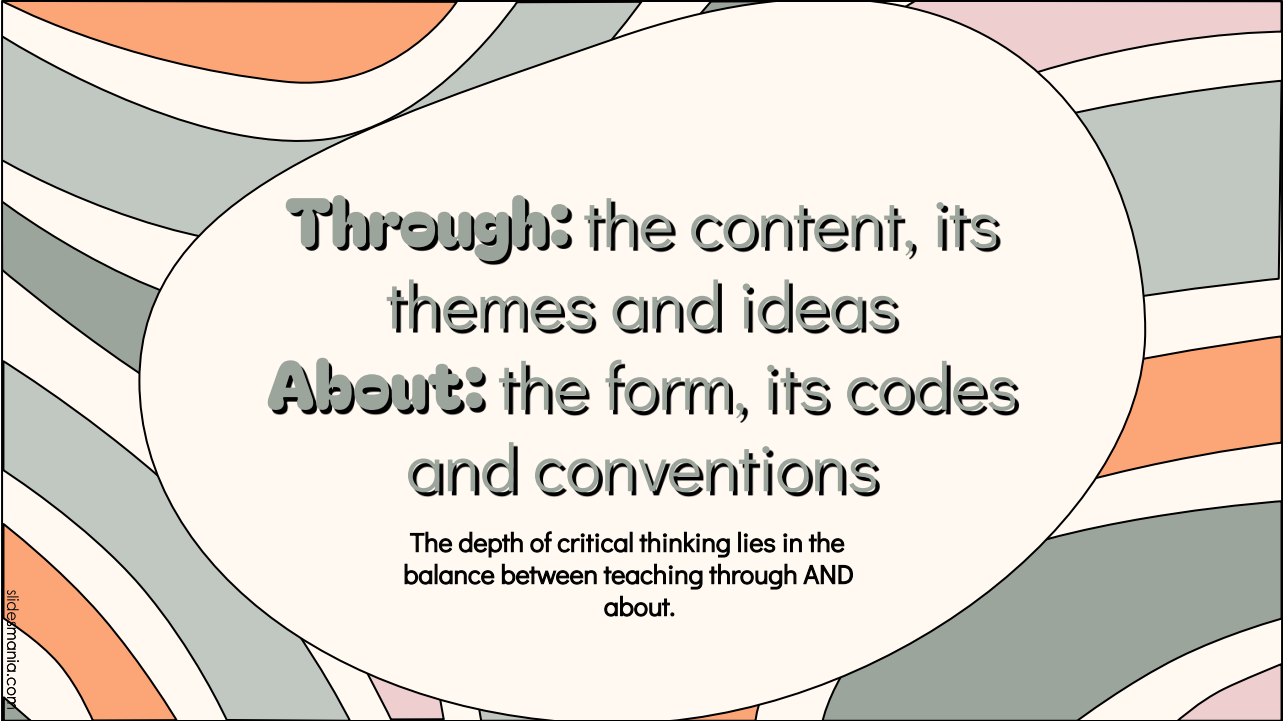
**A multimodality
mandate.**

Structure

In 2006 media literacy was a fenced-off strand with its own report card mark. In 2023 it runs through all of the strands.

**Media Literacy is
interwoven throughout.**

"Media Literacy is the most important skill." **Neil Andersen**



Through: the content, its
themes and ideas
About: the form, its codes
and conventions

The depth of critical thinking lies in the
balance between teaching through AND
about.

The Media Triangle

- An adaptable tool for analysis



There are many variations

- The general triangle
- The ABAR media triangle
- The Fake News Triangle

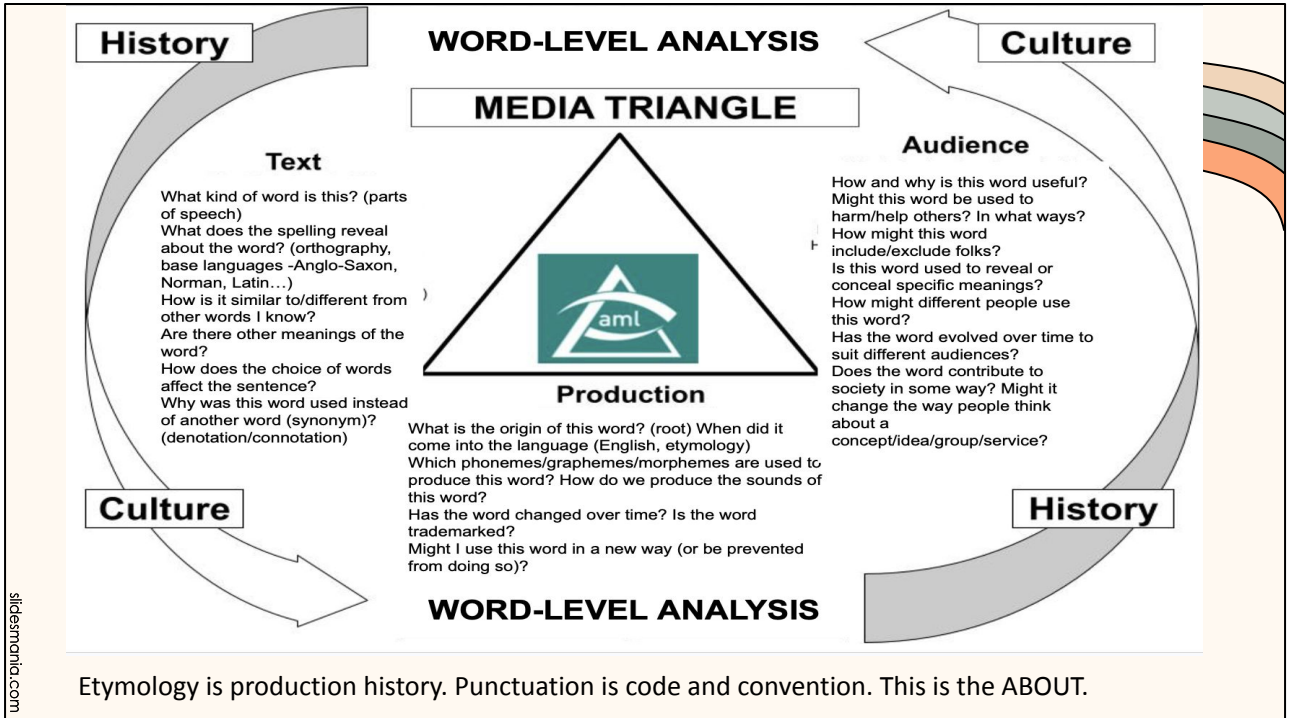
And many more...

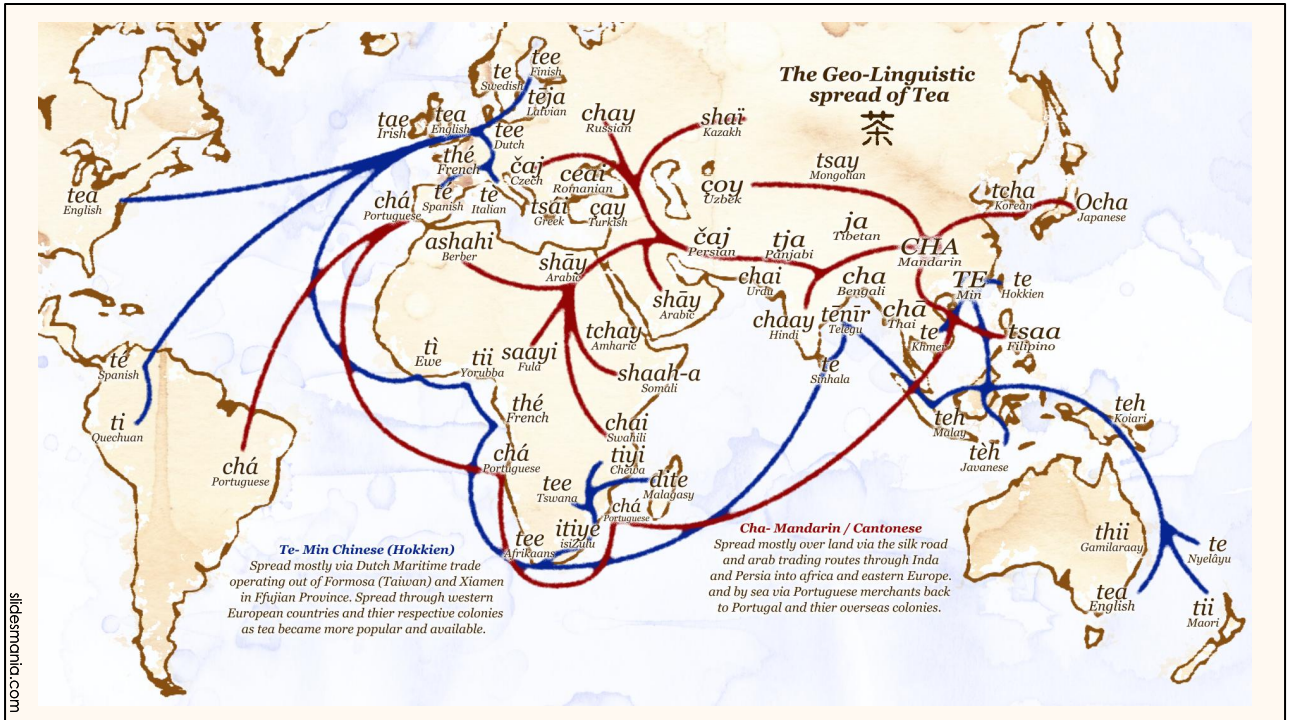
Choose the one that works best for your purpose. Find more options on the AML website.

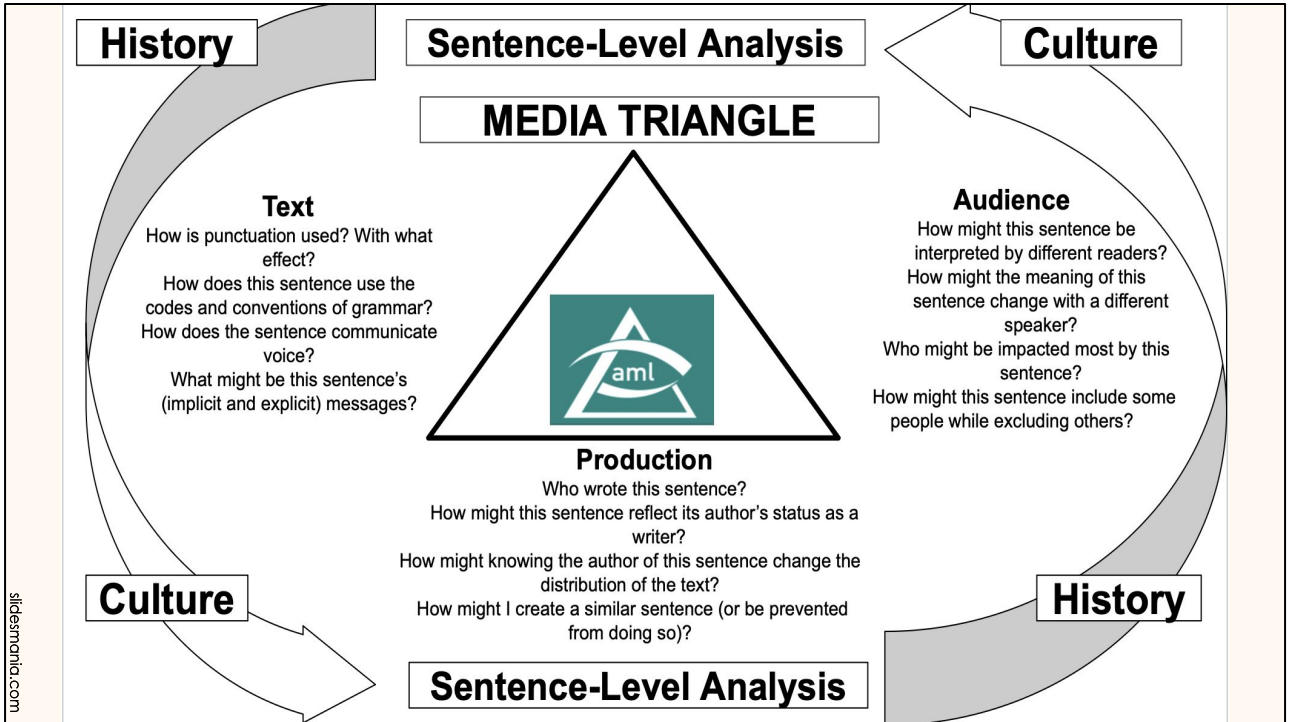
<https://aml.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/triangleq.pdf>

<https://aml.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/abar-media-triangle.pdf>

<https://aml.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/fake-news-triangle-handout-2019.pdf>







Analysis isn't the end...

1. Awareness

What students already know.

2. Analysis

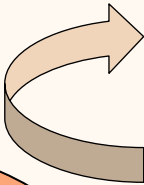
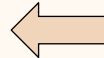
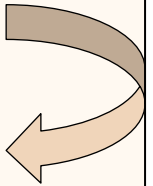
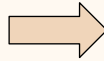
Use the triangle questions to analyse the text.

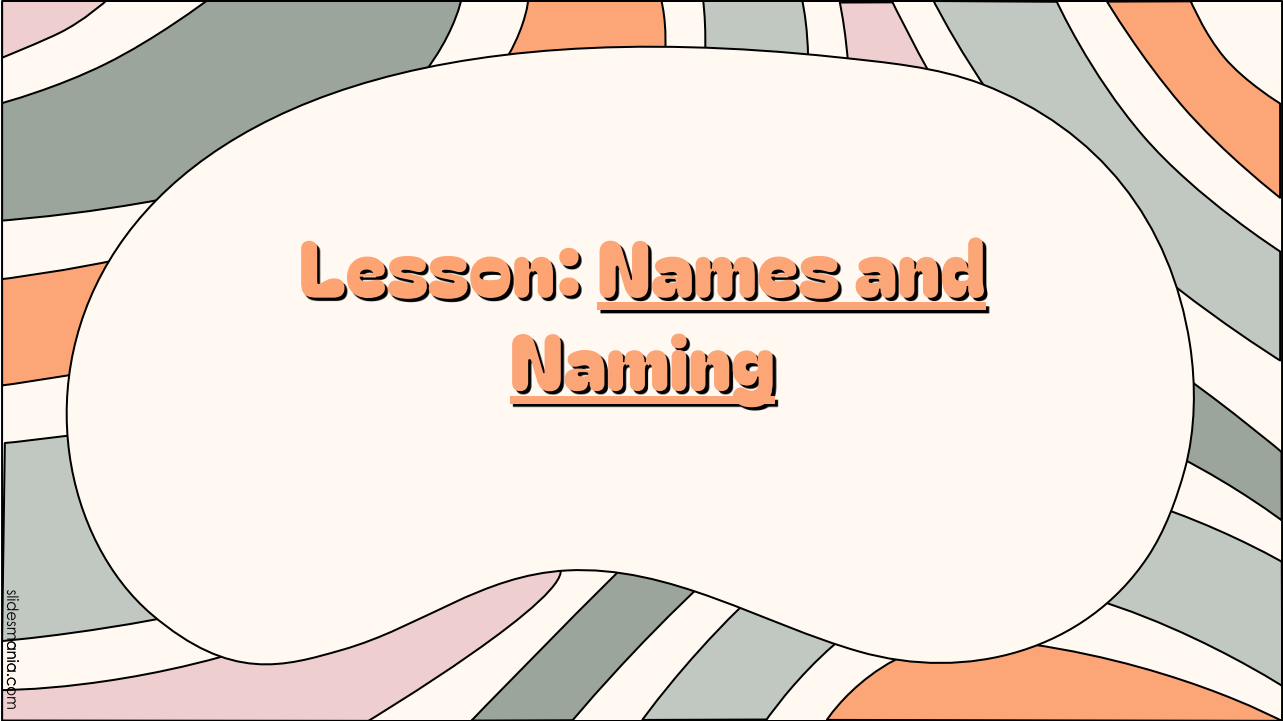
3. Reflection

Metacognition: how do I know what I know? How does the analysis change my thinking?

4. Action

Production. A vital part of the teaching and learning process!





Lesson: Names and Naming

Names and Naming:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OhluWm75KHtJSlwHnHwj79M5Q6bxeE8VOAUL7cjVXNs/edit?usp=sharing>

Activity lends itself to differentiation.

PART ONE

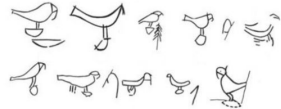
Introduce students to the study of names

Names are icons of meaning. They are cultural texts containing stories, histories, and values. The first names were symbols; hieroglyphs, pictures that represented some aspect of the person.

Prince revived that tradition with his unpronounceable [Love Symbol in 1999](#).



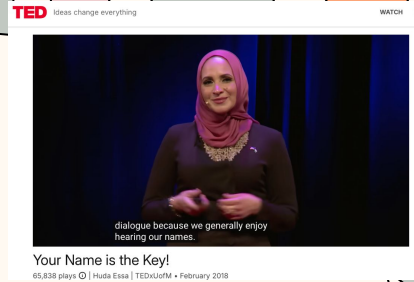
The earliest names we know of come from Egypt — for example a king named Iry-Hor, “The Mouth of Horus,” dating from about 3200 BC.



Iry-Hor's name on a pottery shard. [Source](#)

The teacher goes first

Share your own name and its meaning with the class; including the part you are less fond of. Who are you named after? What is the etymology? Do you like your name? Would you change it, or prefer a nickname? Why?

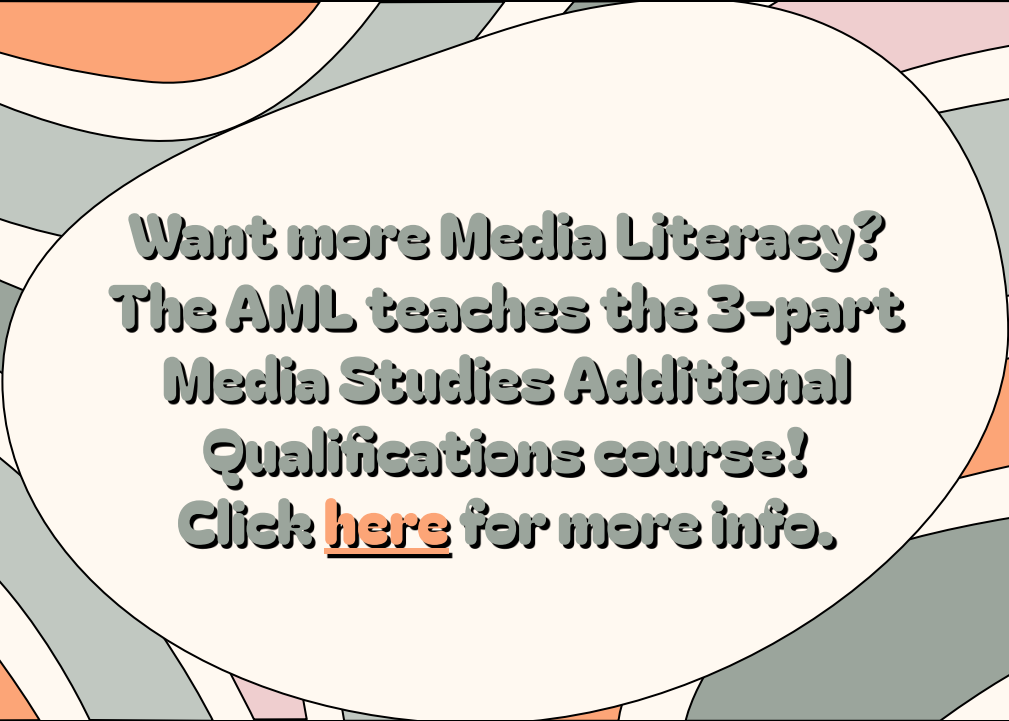


VARIATION ONE

Teach Us Your Name

This activity honours learners and different cultures, and builds agency. Students watch Huda Essa's TED talk on names as inspiration for their own video production.

- Watch [Your Name is the Key](#) — take notes as you watch for ideas for your own video.
- Jot down ideas for your video.
- Create and submit a video teaching us your name, using whichever video creation and sharing platform your board has approved.
- Download a backup copy of your finished video and share it with the class in Google Classroom/Brightspace (or whichever platform your board is using).
- Watch at least three classmates' videos to get to know them.
- Share some love — respond to any videos that spoke to you.



**Want more Media Literacy?
The AML teaches the 3-part
Media Studies Additional
Qualifications course!
Click here for more info.**

<https://aml.ca/professional-development/additional-qualifications/>

Resources

The Association for Media Literacy - our subject association website. Want even more media literacy? Consider taking the AQ. More information [here](#).

- Essential Frameworks (including more triangles!)
- K-12 Lesson plans and ideas
- EULA posters

Ontario Human Rights Commission. (2022). *Right to read inquiry report*.
<https://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/right-to-read-inquiry-report>

Resources:

<https://aml.ca>

<https://aml.ca/resources/essential-framework/>

<https://aml.ca/resources/lesson-plans/>

<https://aml.ca/resources/end-user-license-agreements/>

<https://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/right-to-read-inquiry-report>