

Media Literacy And The Emerging Citizen Youth

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media literacy and the emerging citizen is about enhancing engagement in a digital media culture and the models that educators parents and policy makers can utilize to place media savvy youth into positions of purpose responsibility and power two specific challenges are at the core of this book s argument that media literacy is the path toward more active and robust civic engagement in the 21st century how can media literacy enable core competencies for value driven diverse and robust digital media use how can media literacy enable a more civic minded participatory culture these challenges are great but they need to be examined in their entirety if media literacy is to begin to address the opportunities they present for democracy participation and discourse in a digital media age by presenting information that places media literacy at the

center of what it means to be an engaged citizen educators and policy makers will understand why media literacy must be integrated into formal and informal education systems before it is too late

although the last half of the twentieth century has been called the age of democracy the twenty first has already demonstrated the fragility of its apparent triumph as the dominant form of government throughout the world reassessing the fate of democracy for our time distinguished political theorist ralph ketcham traces the evolution of this idea over the course of four hundred years he traces democracy's bumpy ride in a book that is both an exercise in the history of ideas and an explication of democratic theory ketcham examines the rationales for democratic government identifies the fault lines that separate democracy from good government and suggests ways to strengthen it in order to meet future challenges drawing on an encyclopedic command of history and politics he examines the rationales that have been offered for democratic government over the course of four manifestations of modernity that he identifies in the western and east asian world since 1600 ketcham first considers the fundamental axioms established by theorists of the enlightenment bacon locke jefferson and reflected in america's founding then moves on to the mostly post darwinian critiques by bentham veblen dewey and others that produced theories of the liberal corporate state he explains late nineteenth century asian responses to democracy as the third manifestation grounded in confucian respect for communal and hierarchical norms followed by late twentieth century postmodernist thought that views democratic states as oppressive and seeks to empower marginalized groups ketcham critiques the first second and fourth modernity rationales for democracy and suggests that the asian approach may represent a reconciliation of ancient wisdom and modern science better suited to today's world he advocates a reorientation of democracy that de-emphasizes group or identity politics and restores the wholeness of the civic community proposing a return to the jeffersonian universalism that which informed the founding of the united states if democracy is to flourish in a fifth manifestation the idea of democracy in the modern era is an erudite interdisciplinary work of great breadth and complexity that looks to the past in order to reframe the future with its global overview and comparative insights it will stimulate discussion of how democracy can survive and thrive in the coming era

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