

What it means to be 'news-literate'

The skills students need
to be reliably informed

June 18, 2020



John Silva, NBCT
Director of education



@MrSilva

- Developer of news literacy curriculum resources and integration.
- Facilitator for educator professional development and training.
- 13 years in Chicago Public Schools (middle school and high school social studies teacher).
- NBCT in Social Studies-History.

About the News Literacy Project



Who we are

Our mission

The News Literacy Project, a nonpartisan national education nonprofit, empowers educators to teach students the skills they need to be smart, active consumers of news and other information and engaged, informed participants in civic life.

The News Literacy Project

Our vision

News literacy is embedded in the American education experience.





Let's connect on social media!

Tag us: **#NewsLitPD**

Twitter: **@NewsLitProject**

Instagram: **@NewsLitProject**

Facebook: **@TheNewsLiteracyProject**



“ Young people have a right to news literacy education. ”

“

**Young people
have a right to
news literacy
education**

1. Information is the basis for civic literacy, agency and action.

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1. Information is the basis for civic literacy, agency and action.
2. Students are inheriting the largest and most complex information landscape in human history.

“

**Young people
have a right to
news literacy
education**

The News Literacy Project

1. Information is the basis for civic literacy, agency and action.
2. Students are inheriting the largest and most complex information landscape in human history.
3. Not preparing them to successfully navigate and play a role in shaping this landscape is fundamentally unfair.

News literacy is the ability to ...

- Determine what is credible and what is not.
- Use the standards of authoritative, fact-based journalism in deciding what to trust, what to share and what to act on.
- Interact with news and other information in ways that promote engaged participation in civic life.

Why news literacy matters



58,000+ died in the Vietnam War. Stolen valor has disgraced those that gave all and served honorably by many including [@SenBlumenthal](#)

This is the honor the rioters gave to those names that gave all on the Vietnam Wall



MISINFORMATION

1:02 PM · Jun 3, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone



WELL HOWDY!

I'm just a mysterious pile o' bricks

I've been seen at many of the recent BLM protests sitting around areas of no construction or carefully removed from things like streets or sidewalks and placed in neat, easy-to-grab piles!



DO NOT REACH FOR ME! I AM INTENTIONALLY PLACED HERE TO CREATE VIOLENCE!

This is used to delegitimize the movement and allows for more force to be used. Instead, alert those around me that I am a trap, and document me with photo and video evidence using #BAITBRICKS

Do not share this post directly! Copy and paste the photo to your own page so no one is targeted!

Chicago, Illinois • Following ...

This ain't Bad Dudes.

2d

It's the nut hurling the brick that needs to be contained.

2d 1 like Reply

I liked the suggestion to do like the hk protestors did and use them kinda like dragons teeth to keep cops from running people over

2d 2 likes Reply

55 likes

2 DAYS AGO

Add a comment... Post

RUMORS & HOAXES








 **tophertownmusic**
Topher · 2-9 Follow

Let's not forget #maketheswitch #openyoureyes
#blackconservative #blackrepublican #blexit #maga #trump2020
#republican #democrat #blackhistory

🎵 Exactly How I Feel (feat. Gucci Mane) - Lizzo

👍 118.4K 💬 2772



 **Nevan**
Yes that's how you FEEL, that's not the FACTs tho, the party platforms did switch
2-13

View replies (26) ▾

 **Sebastian Duran**
CEO of ignoring history books
2-9

View replies (78) ▾

 **trey stetler**
Is this just denial? I'm confused? The parties switched bro read a history book

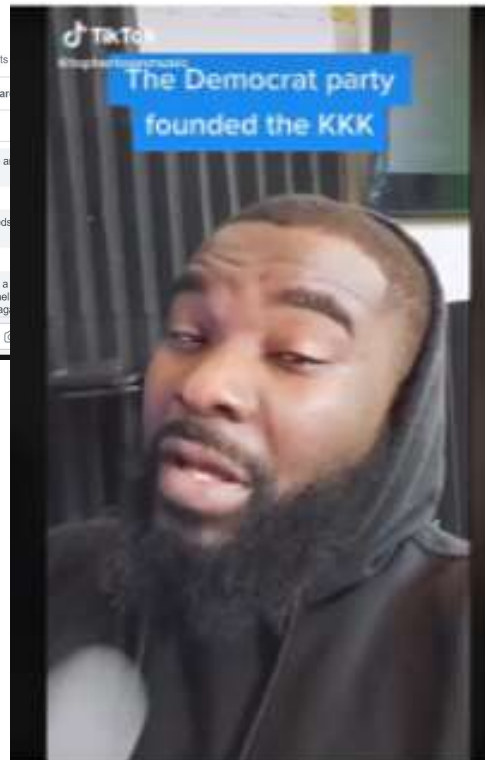
PROPAGANDA



News literacy skills apply to
the content and the source of
information – not the platform.



What will students find if they search for these claims?



This is the honor the rioters gave to those names that gave all on the Vietnam Wall



1:02 PM · Jun 3, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

Can your students
tell the difference
between fact and fiction?



Essential news literacy skills

Slow down; recognize
your emotional responses



- Misinformation manipulates our emotions.
- Emotional response overrides rational thought.
- Adolescents are especially vulnerable.

**CHINA
SPREAD
THE DISEASE!
DEMOCRATS
SPREAD
THE LIES!
MEDIA SPREAD
THE PANIC!
THEY CRASHED
OUR ECONOMY!
REMEMBER NOVEMBER!**

**VOTE RED
REMOVE EVERY DEMOCRAT**







Differentiate news from opinion



News vs. opinion

- **News:** Information that **informs** you through **fair and impartial** reporting about local, national and international events, issues and people of significance or of interest.
- **Opinion:** Information that presents a **specific point of view** and, often, tries to **persuade** you to adopt or support that view about an issue or subject.

Is this news or opinion?



informable

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postopinions

United States Department of the Treasury



FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Mnuchin's excuse for delaying the Harriet Tubman \$20 bill is insulting



154 likes

postopinions Backpedaling on putting the first African American woman on paper money tells women and girls and people of color that they don't

Is this news or opinion?



informable

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.



U.S.

Many More Students, Especially the Affluent, Get Extra Time to Take the SAT

Responding to parent pleas, high schools grant special test-taking accommodations to growing numbers, a Wall Street Journal analysis shows



NEXT →

Standards of quality journalism

Verification

Sourcing

Fairness

**Accountability and
transparency**

Context

Recognizing opinion

- Look for key words: “opinion,” “commentary,” “editorial.”
- Look for first-person statements by the author (this does not include quotes from others).
- Look for persuasive language.

Note: The “tone” of the text may include exaggeration, sarcasm, irony and superlatives.

Recognize types and forms of bias



Do you perceive bias in this headline?

“Philadelphia police inspector
surrenders to face charges of
assaulting student during
protest”

Is this more biased, less biased or about the same?

“Philly Police Inspector Joseph Bologna applauded by fellow officers as he surrenders on charges of assaulting a protester”

Is this more biased, less biased or about the same?

“Large Crowd Shows Support As
Philadelphia Police Staff
Inspector Turns Self In On
Charges Of Assaulting Protester
With Baton”

Rank these from most to least biased:

1. "Philadelphia police inspector surrenders to face charges of assaulting student during protest"
2. "Philly Police Inspector Joseph Bologna applauded by fellow officers as he surrenders on charges of assaulting a protester"
3. "Large Crowd Shows Support As Philadelphia Police Staff Inspector Turns Self In On Charges Of Assaulting Protester With Baton"

Questions of bias

- Are these all straight news pieces from standards-based news organizations?
- Are these accurate/factual headlines?
- Can we clearly explain which type of bias we perceive?
- Are we projecting our own biases? (Confirmation bias)

Sources for these headlines (all straight news):



“Philadelphia police inspector surrenders to face charges of assaulting student during protest”



“Philly Police Inspector Joseph Bologna applauded by fellow officers as he surrenders on charges of assaulting a protester”



“Large Crowd Shows Support As Philadelphia Police Staff Inspector Turns Self In On Charges Of Assaulting Protester With Baton”

Understanding Bias

TYPES

Corporate bias



A type of bias in which the business or advertising interests of a news outlet, or its parent company, influence how — or even whether — a story is reported.

“Big story” bias



A type of bias in which journalists' perceptions of an event or development as a major, important story can cause them to miss key details and misrepresent key facts.



Partisan bias

A type of bias in which a journalist's political views affect news coverage.

Demographic bias



A type of bias in which race, gender, ethnicity or other factors — such as culture or economic class — affect news coverage.

Neutrality bias



A type of bias in which a journalist or news outlet tries so hard to avoid appearing biased to anyone that the coverage actually misrepresents the facts.

FORMS



Absence of fairness and balance

The failure of a straight news report to present a fair and balanced representation of the event or issue. This is a form that various types of bias can take in news coverage.



Framing

The way that journalists approach and organize a story. Various types of news media bias can be expressed in how a story is framed.



Tone

In journalism, the use of words and phrases that affect the audience's perception of the issue or event being covered. This is one form that various types of bias can take in reporting.

Story selection

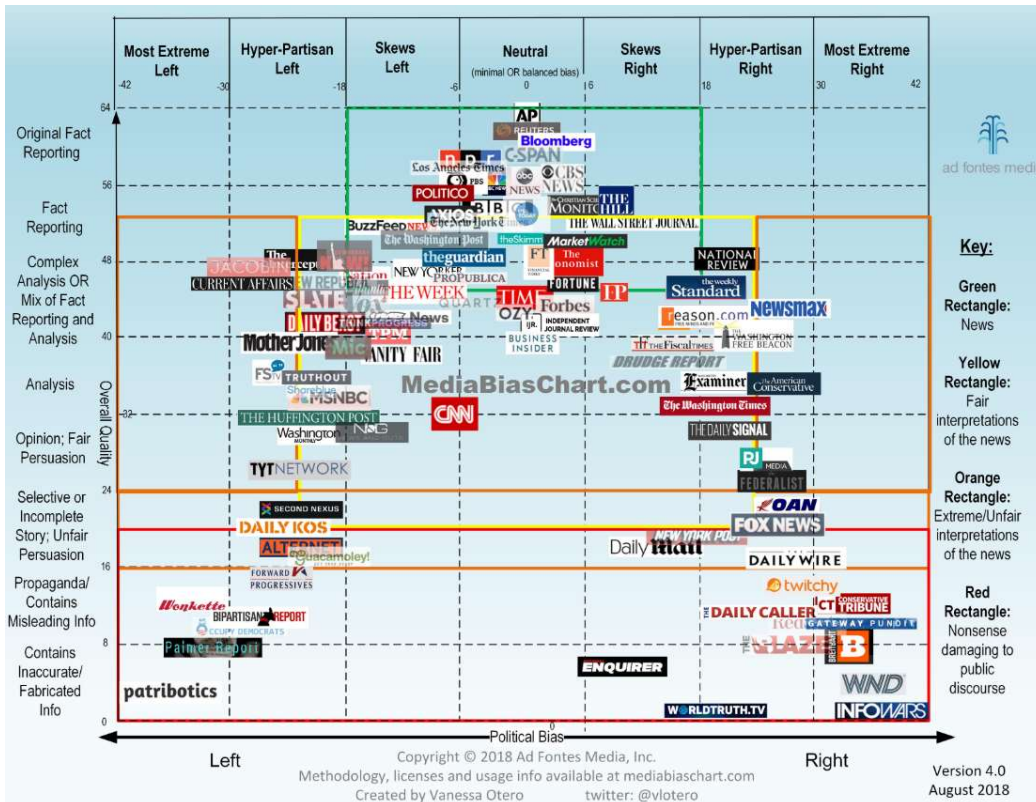
The process that news outlets use to decide which issues and events to cover. This is a form that various types of bias can take in news coverage.



Sourcing

All of the people, organizations, documents and other providers of information that are used to put together a news report. The use of incomplete or otherwise flawed sourcing is one potential form that various types of news media bias can take.

We might be tempted to rely on charts like these:



The News Literacy Project

AllSides™ Top Online News Media Bias Ratings

AllSides media bias ratings are based on multi-partisan, scientific analysis. All ratings are based on online content only – not TV, print, or radio content. Visit AllSides.com to view over 600 media bias ratings.



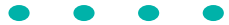
LEFT LEAN LEFT CENTER LEAN RIGHT RIGHT

Version 1.1 | AllSides 2019

Efficacy of these charts for determining bias in news

- They often reflect the orientation of opinion writers or commentators and the perceptions held by the general public.
- Some sources focus almost entirely on commentary, opinion or propaganda.
- They are highly subjective/debatable when it comes to straight news.
- They may even over-simplify a complex issue and discourage critical evaluation.

Questions so far?



Evaluate posts for evidence



Does this post provide evidence to support its claim?



informable

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Margarine is ONE MOLECULE away from Plastic; and shares 27 ingredients with Paint. Bon Appetit!



Michelle Case

Yikes!!

Mobile Uploads · Apr 14 · 🌐

Does this post provide evidence to support its claim?



informable

The News Literacy Project



Pew Research Center

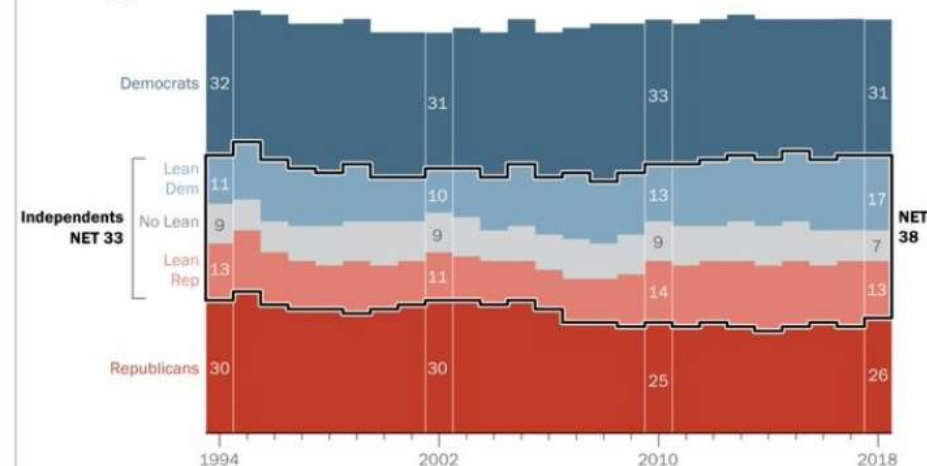
@pewresearch

38% of U.S. adults identify as politically independent, but most “lean” toward one of the two major political parties.

pewrsr.ch/2LMgcWI

Though about four-in-ten Americans call themselves ‘independents,’ few are truly independent

% who identify as ...



Note: Other party/Don't know responses not shown.
Source: Annual totals of Pew Research Center survey data (U.S. adults).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

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Bon Appetit!



Michelle Case

Yikes!!

Mobile Uploads · Apr 14 · 🌐



Pew Research Center

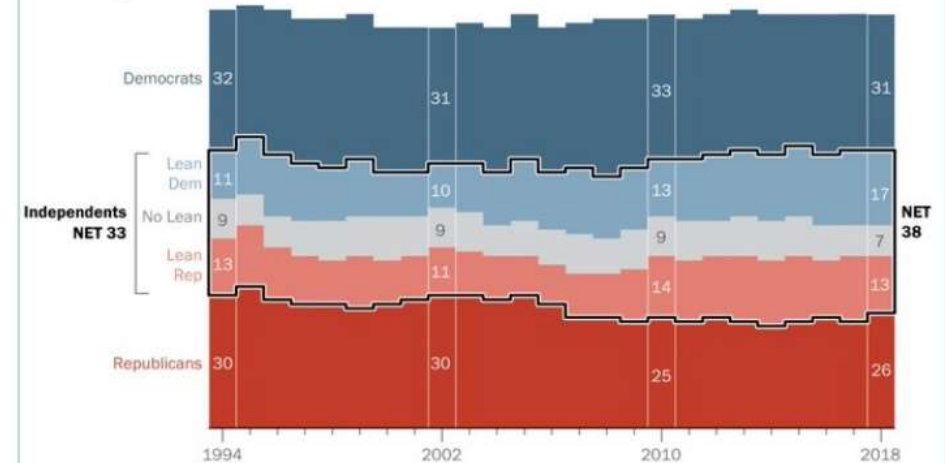
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Source: Annual totals of Pew Research Center survey data (U.S. adults).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



DeAnna Lorraine  
@DeAnna4Congress



Just went to 2 hospitals in LA to check out these “War Zones” the MSM keeps telling us about. 🏥

They are very quiet & EMPTY.
We are not being told the truth. Why?? Let’s get [#FilmYourHospital](#) trending. We ARE the news now. We can’t trust the news. Post pics of ur hospital here!



2:16 PM · Mar 29, 2020 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

21.9K Retweets **33.9K** Likes

Questions for evaluating evidence

- What/who is the source of the claim?
 - Is the source credible?
- What evidence is there to support the claim?
 - What is the source of the evidence?
 - Is that source credible?
- Is there a clear connection between the evidence and the claim?
- Does the evidence prove the claim?

Adapted from the Stanford History Education Group's Civic Online Reasoning curriculum

Verify information using fact-checking skills



Fact-checking skill: Observation





I have so many questions...



11:01 AM · Apr 26, 2020 · [Twitter for iPad](#)

1K Retweets 5.2K Likes





Fact-check skill:
Lateral reading



Tips for effective lateral reading

- Use effective search strategies and tools.
- Exercise click restraint; review results carefully.
- Select sources that seem relevant and reliable.
- Evaluate the information and sources you find.
- Keep searching until you are confident.

Note: The terms “Lateral Reading” and “Click Restraint” are derived from research conducted by Sam Wineburg and Sarah McGrew at the Stanford Graduate School of Education.



✕ 

Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky



Barack Hussein Obama COVID-19 Sign



All Images Shopping News Videos More Settings Tools

About 35,000,000 results (0.53 seconds)

www.snopes.com › Fact Checks › Fauxtography

Is This 'Barack + Hussein + Obama = COVID-19' Protest Sign ...

Claim: A photograph shows a person holding a protest sign claiming that the number of characters in "Barack Hussein Obama" add up to the "19" in COVID-19.

Fact check by Snopes: False

Feedback



apnews.com › afs:Content:8825120039

Photo altered to show protester holding Obama conspiracy ...

Apr 28, 2020 - CLAIM: Photo shows a woman at a California protest against stay-at-home orders holding a sign that says: "Barack 6 Hussein 7 Obama 5 ...



apnews.com › Fact-checking

Fact-checking - AP News

News from The Associated Press, the definitive source for independent journalism from every corner of the globe.



time.com › Politics › COVID-19

Obama: Trump's COVID-19 Response Is a 'Chaotic Disaster ...

May 10, 2020 - Former **President Obama** slammed **President Trump**'s handling of the pandemic as an "absolute chaotic disaster" in call with supporters.

Missing: ~~hussein~~ | Must include: **hussein**

www.obama.org

Welcome to the Obama Foundation

"I'm asking you to believe. Not in my ability to create change—but in yours." **President Barack Obama**.

[Opportunities](#) · [Our Mission](#) · [Contact Us](#) · [About](#)

www.theguardian.com › us-news › may › barack-obam...

Barack Obama attacks Trump administration's response to ...

May 16, 2020 - Former **president** breaks tradition of refraining from criticism of successor, while also highlighting the high-profile killing of Ahmaud Arbery.

Missing: ~~hussein~~ | Must include: **hussein**

en.wikipedia.org › wiki › Barack_Obama

Barack Obama - Wikipedia

Barack Hussein Obama II is an American politician and attorney who served as the 44th










These results are not related to the protest sign but show up in the first page of results.

Fact-check using reverse image search



Reverse image search

- Specialized search that matches pixel patterns.
- Matching and “similar” images in results.
- Evaluate results the same as lateral reading.
- Three key tools: Google, TinEye, Yandex.
- Multiple ways to search.

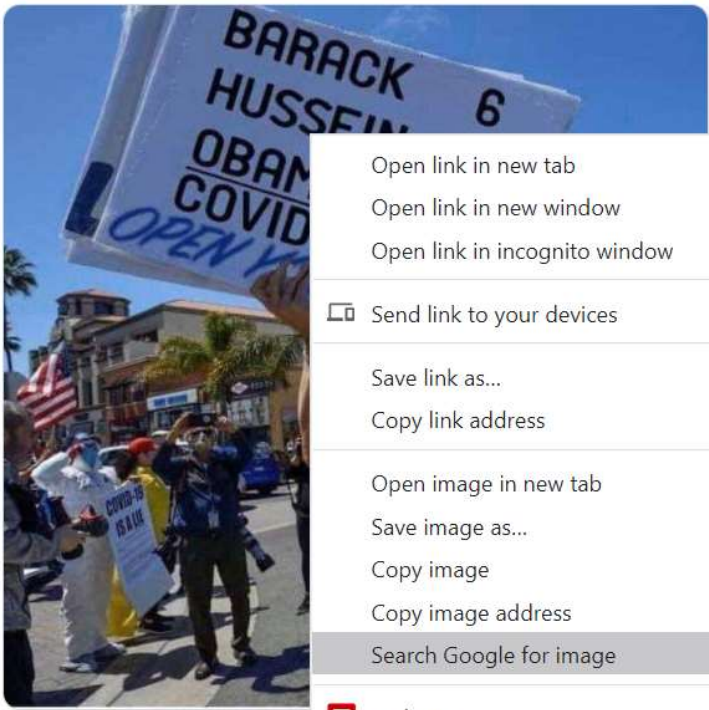
- 
 -  Home
 -  Explore
 -  Notifications
 -  Messages
 -  Bookmarks
 -  Lists
 -  Profile
 -  More
- Tweet**



 **John C. Silva, ...**
@MrSilva

 **Tweet**




I have so many questions...



- Open link in new tab
- Open link in new window
- Open link in incognito window
-  Send link to your devices
- Save link as...
- Copy link address
- Open image in new tab
- Save image as...
- Copy image
- Copy image address
- Search Google for image
-  + Flip It

11:01 AM · Apr 26, 2020 · Twitter for i




 Search Twitter

Relevant people

  [Follow](#)

Average American finding humor in Politics #TheResistance

What's happening

- Health officials in...
ve Roche test 
- ex
Inpractical Jokers. Tonight
TBS.
- the Misery Index
- ates for the US 
- GATE
- ago
eatures
the list of
ty encounters ** 

About 1,460 results (1.22 seconds)



Image size: 900 x 900

Find other sizes of this image: All sizes - Medium - Large

Possible related search: *barack hussein obama covid 19*

www.snopes.com > Fact Checks > Fauxtography

Is This 'Barack + Hussein + Obama = COVID-19' Protest Sign ...

Apr 27, 2020 - The math in this image isn't the only thing that's off.

apnews.com > afs:Content:8825120039

Photo altered to show protester holding Obama conspiracy ...

Apr 28, 2020 - CLAIM: Photo shows a woman at a California protest against stay-at-home orders holding a sign that says: "Barack 6 Hussein 7 Obama 5 ...

These are fact-checks that address the image.

Pages that include matching images

www.reddit.com > CoronavirusMemes > comments > b... ▾

BENEFIT OF A PUBLIC EDUCATION: (check the math ...



691 x 686 - Apr 25, 2020 - How does **Obama** have any connection to **covid 19** when trump was the one to disband **Obama's** epidemic team or whatever it was called.

- The true source of **COVID-19**, according to Karen : pics - Reddit Apr 28, 2020
- Thanks, I hate conspiracy theorists : TIHI - Reddit Apr 27, 2020
- The Virus is from **Obama**. Here is indisputable proof! Just do ... Apr 27, 2020
- More results from www.reddit.com

twitter.com > husu78 > status ▾

Husu Hussein on Twitter: "I didn't know this is the Real reason ...



828 x 817 - Apr 27, 2020 - I didn't know this is the Real reason why we have **covid-19**. My eyes are really olen now . Thanks to this lady!! I cant find my socks this ...

twitter.com > robglaser ▾

Rob Glaser (@RobGlaser) | Twitter



710 x 715 - ... talking **COVID-19**, tells Lara Trump, "clearly the **Obama** administration did not ... If **President** Trump is making daily testing and contact tracing available or

These are links to sites and social media that share the altered image

Questions about
fact-checking?



Recognize satire





The Onion  @TheOnion · 13h

Best Buy Employee Wearing Different Colored Shirt For Some Reason

trib.al/hWBL1r4



 27

 141

 1.7K





The Onion  @TheOnion · 45m

Health Experts Warn Protests Could Set Off Second Wave Of Police Brutality
bit.ly/2A8ESnp



 41

 1.5K

 5.4K





The Babylon Bee
@TheBabylonBee



Episcopalians Confused By Strange Book Trump Brought To Church




Episcopalians Confused By Strange Book Trump Brought To Church
WASHINGTON, D.C.—Trump visited St. John's Church in Washington to hold up a Bible straight toward the heavens, a completely natural way to hold a Bible, in a ...
babylonbee.com

11:45 AM · Jun 2, 2020 · [Buffer](#)

3K Retweets **9.9K** Likes

The News Literacy Project

|  @NewsLitProject

|  @MrSilva

How clearly should satire be labeled?

 **The Onion** 
75.3K Tweets



The Onion 
@TheOnion
America's Finest News Source.
theonion.com  Joined March 2008
9 Following 11.4M Followers
Followed by  K-BoB , Proud Liberal , and 409 others you follow

 **The Babylon Bee**
8,814 Tweets



The Babylon Bee
@TheBabylonBee
Fake news you can trust.
babylonbee.com  Joined February 2016
51 Following 469.9K Followers
Followed by  Devin Nunes' Alt-Mom, MTlass, and 24 others you follow



Brent Terhune
@BrentTerhune



Tweeter wants to shut down my PRESIDENT??? I DONT
THANK SO





Brent Terhune

19.5K Tweets



Follow

Brent Terhune

@BrentTerhune

Comedian. Podcast: Field Trip w/ Brent Terhune. IG: Brentterhune. You're here because you thought that video was real.

tinyurl.com/rcc9c5h 📅 Joined April 2009

4,247 Following 92.5K Followers

Satire is a type of misinformation

- Humor is an emotional response.
- Even well-labeled satire is often shared out of context or plagiarized.
- Comedic or “I was just kidding” user-generated posts can go viral.
- Verification of content and source is the same as other forms of misinformation.

Click the links
and read shared articles





Ronda Rousey  @RondaRousey · Jun 26, 2016

Why doesn't America read anymore @NPR ?



Why Doesn't America Read Anymore?

In an age of readily available information and countless ways to get it, we seem to be losing touch with our powers of comprehension.

 [npr.org](https://www.npr.org)

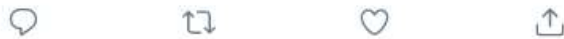
 224

 364

 1.6K



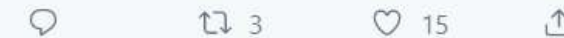
 **Bruce Robert Serafin** @inOscarfilm · Jul 21, 2016
Replying to @RondaRousey and @NPR
because people are lazy and stupid, next question?



 **Nathan Wilson** 🐱 @nathanwilson0 · Jun 26, 2016
Replying to @RondaRousey
interesting. Reading requires active participation by an unwilling audience who'd rather passively watch tv/film, mobile games



 **Jason Mayhem Miller** ✓ @mayhemmiller · Jul 9, 2016
Replying to @RondaRousey and @NPR
I'll tell you why, buttercup-Americans are inundated with social media and circuses, and bread.




 **CHINESE_BAGELCOMPANY** @CHINESE_BAGELCO · Jun 26, 2016
Replying to @RondaRousey and @NPR
nobody respects the value of a library anymore. not everything is on the internet. people are lazy and ignorant.



 **CHINESE_BAGELCOMPANY** @CHINESE_BAGELCO · Jun 26, 2016
Replying to @RondaRousey and @NPR
its a sad state of affairs for the people who still work as librarians. less library usage. less operating funds..



 **Tiggs1** @tiggs111 · Jun 26, 2016
Replying to @RondaRousey and @NPR
They read twitter, snap chat and a bunch of other cap that has no educational value. #Sad





Why Doesn't America Read Anymore?

April 1, 2014 · 10:13 AM ET

Congratulations, genuine readers, and happy April Fools' Day!

We sometimes get the sense that some people are commenting on NPR stories that they haven't actually read. If you are reading this, please like this post and do not comment on it. Then let's see what people have to say about this "story."

Best wishes and have an enjoyable day,



What has become of our brains?

iStockphoto

'Social Clicks: What and Who Gets Read on Twitter?'

- Joint study by Columbia University and the French National Research Institute (June, 2016).
- 59% of links shared on Twitter have never actually been clicked by that person's followers.
- Followers will continue to engage in the comments long after initial post.



Twitter Support 
@TwitterSupport



Sharing an article can spark conversation, so you may want to read it before you Tweet it.

To help promote informed discussion, we're testing a new prompt on Android — when you Retweet an article that you haven't opened on Twitter, we may ask if you'd like to open it first.

1:23 PM · Jun 10, 2020 · [Sprinklr](#)





ABC News  @ABC · 20h



You may be old enough to drive, vote, join the military and buy a lottery ticket—but in **Vermont**, it may soon be against the law to have a **cellphone** if you're under the age of 21.



Cellphone users under 21 in Vermont could see jail time if new bill is pa...
A new proposed bill in Vermont seeks to ban cell phones for people under 21.

abcnews.go.com

 283

 171

 452





CNN  @CNN · 19h



Democratic state Sen. John Rodgers of **Vermont** proposed a bill that would effectively ban **cellphone** use and possession for residents under 21 because, he told CNN, "cellphones are just as dangerous as guns."



A Vermont senator proposed a ban on cell phones for anyone under 21....
A Vermont state senator has proposed a total ban on cellphones for anyone under 21 years old.

 [cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com)

 710

 193

 727





Rick Wright @RickWri55004378 · 20h

Replying to @ABC

I believe kids have no business with phones.



1 more reply



Ben Thankan @BenThankan · 20h

Replying to @ABC

Rise up Libertarians!



4 more replies



smart lady @BuiceElaine · 20h

Replying to @ABC

what 's their reason for this ?





Jenny @j3nnyjump · 20h

Replying to @ABC

Can you say "government overreach"?



[1 more reply](#)



Mike Polite @IBMP21 · 19h

Replying to @ABC

Nanny state alert !



[1 more reply](#)



John E Gerlach @johnegerlach · 18h

Replying to @ABC

I'm starting to think that the long term goal is to stifle the youth vote by claiming that they aren't mature enough to make good voting decisions!





ABC News @ABC · 20h

You may be old enough to drive, vote, join the military and buy a lottery ticket—but in **Vermont**, it may soon be against the law to have a **cellphone** if you're under the age of 21.



Cellphone users under 21 in Vermont could see jail time if new bill is pa...
A new proposed bill in Vermont seeks to ban cell phones for people under 21.

abcnews.go.com

283

171

452



MyNBC5 @MyNBC5 · 3h

Rodgers: Proposed **Vermont cellphone** law really a statement on gun rights



Rodgers: Proposed Vermont cellphone law really a statement on gun rig...
A Vermont lawmaker has proposed a cellphone law that is meant to capture people's attention.

mynbc5.com

1



Questions for exploration



How do these skills connect to your curriculum?

- Slow down; check emotions.
- Differentiate news from opinion.
- Understand types and forms of bias.
- Fact-check using lateral reading.
- Fact-check using reverse image search.
- Evaluate sources for evidence.
- Recognize satire.
- Click the links.

What cross-curricular opportunities are there?

- Slow down; check emotions.
- Differentiate news from opinion.
- Understand types and forms of bias.
- Fact-check using lateral reading.
- Fact-check using reverse image search.
- Evaluate sources for evidence.
- Recognize satire.
- Click the links.

How would you scaffold these across grade levels?

- Slow down; check emotions.
- Differentiate news from opinion.
- Understand types and forms of bias.
- Fact-check using lateral reading.
- Fact-check using reverse image search.
- Evaluate sources for evidence.
- Recognize satire.
- Click the links.

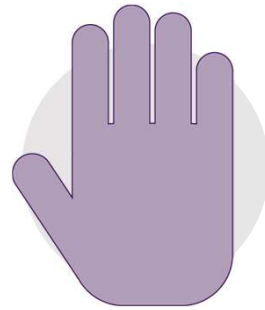
What you can do



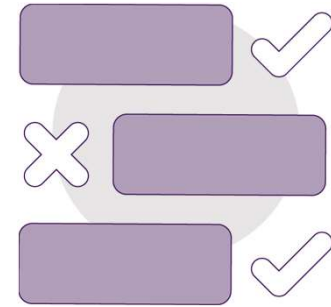
Practice news literacy skills



**Check your sources
before you share**



**Be mindful of what
you share**



**Push back against
misinformation**

Stand up for facts!

Before 'liking'
or sharing
potential
misinformation:

- Pause.
- Be aware of your emotions.
- Do a quick check.

Build the habit.

- Pause.
- Be aware of your emotions.
- Is it news? Decide if it's:
 - User-generated.
 - An unfamiliar organization/source.
 - A recognized standards-based news source.
- Practice digital verification skills and lateral reading.

“

**Young people
have a right to
news literacy
education**

1. Information is the basis for civic literacy, agency and action.
2. Students are inheriting the largest and most complex information landscape in human history.
3. Not preparing them to successfully navigate and play a role in shaping this landscape is fundamentally unfair.

Q & A time!
(then I'll share resources)

News Literacy Project resources

<https://newslit.org/coronavirus>



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Get smart about COVID-19 misinformation



No-cost news literacy lessons

We are now offering free Premium licenses for our online platform, the Checkology virtual classroom, to educators and parents in the U.S. who are now engaged in distance or in-home learning as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[LEARN MORE](#)

<https://get.checkology.org>

checkology

What is Checkology?

Impact

Student learning

Pricing

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Register now

Can your students tell the difference between fact and fiction?

The Checkology® virtual classroom can help.

Register now

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Checkology's 13 Lessons



InfoZones
Host: Tracie Potts
NBC News Channel



Democracy's Watchdog
Host: Wesley Lowery
60 in 6



Misinformation
Host: Claire Wardle
First Draft



Practicing Quality Journalism
Host: Enrique Acevedo
Univision



Understanding Bias
Host: Indra Lakshmanan
National Geographic



What is News?
Host: Paul Saltzman
Chicago Sun-Times



Be the Editor
Self-guided
interactive lesson



The First Amendment
Host: Sam Chaltain
First Amendment expert



Citizen Watchdogs
Host: Tamerra Griffin
BuzzFeed News



Arguments & Evidence
Host: Kimberley Strassel
The Wall Street Journal



Introduction to Algorithms
Host: Nicco Mele
Harvard Kennedy School



Branded Content
Host: Emily Withrow
the Quartz Bot Studio



**Press Freedoms
Around the World**
Host: Soraya Sarhaddi Nelson
NPR

Schedule a Classroom Connection, either in person or online, with one of our journalist volunteers.



Emily Abshire
NPR



Aisha Al-Muslim
The Wall Street Journal



Elaine Aradillas
People



Isaac Arnsdorf
ProPublica



Angela Hill
Scripps Washington Bureau/Newsy



Madeleine Holth
Freelance



Christina Barron
The Washington Post



Joni Hirsch Blackman
West Suburban Living
Magazine/freelance



Hannah Bloch
NPR



George Bodarky
WFUV



Danielle Ivory
The New York Times



LA Johnson
NPR

How to know what to trust

FIRST



NEXT



NEXT

USER-GENERATED CONTENT

Check the comments.

Has anyone provided evidence that the claim being made isn't true (or that it *is* true)?

Read the post carefully.

Does it cite reputable sources or actual evidence to support its claim? (Remember: Bad actors often try to pass off unrelated photos and video as "evidence" for their false claims.)

Search elsewhere for the claim.

Does it appear in other user-generated forums? Have other accounts shared identical posts? Have quality news outlets or fact-checking organizations written about this?

AN UNFAMILIAR ORGANIZATION/SOURCE

Check the comments.

Has anyone flagged this source or provided evidence that the claim being made isn't true (or that it *is* true)?

Turn the headline into a question, then search.

Copy the headline into a search bar, adding a question mark at the end. Have reputable news outlets or fact-checking organizations written about this?

Search for the name of the source.

Are there credible results that identify it as unreliable? Can you determine if it is a satirical or entertainment site? Is there evidence that it is a state-run news outlet?

A RECOGNIZED STANDARDS-BASED NEWS SOURCE

Check: News or something else?

Is this a straight news report or something else, such as an opinion piece? (Remember: Opinion journalism doesn't try to be unbiased.)

Look for obvious problems.

Is there anything in this report that seems "off" to you? Does it use loaded language, or contain other signs that it's unfair?

Look for other coverage.

Are other credible standards-based outlets reporting the same thing?

How to know what to trust

FIRST

1. Be aware of your emotions.

2. Pause.

3. Decide if it is...

NEXT

USER-GENERATED CONTENT

Check the comments. Has anyone provided evidence that the claim being made isn't true (or that it is true)?

Read the post carefully. Does it cite reputable sources or actual evidence to support its claim? (Remember: Bad actors often try to pass off unrelated photos and video as "evidence" for their false claims.)

Search elsewhere for the claim. Does it appear in other user-generated forums? Have other accounts shared identical posts? Have quality news outlets or fact-checking organizations written about this?

Investigate the account. Can you tell where the post originated? If not, look at other posts shared by the account. Does the account seem responsibly run, or is it devoted to amplifying divisive, inflammatory content?

AN UNFAMILIAR ORGANIZATION/SOURCE

Check the comments. Has anyone flagged this source or provided evidence that the claim being made isn't true (or that it is true)?

Turn the headline into a question, then search. Copy the headline into a search bar, adding a question mark at the end. Have reputable news outlets or fact-checking organizations written about this?

Search for the name of the source. Are there credible results that identify it as unreliable? Can you determine if it is a satirical or entertainment site? Is there

anything on this site that looks suspicious? Does the site contain original reporting, or simply commentary? Are there numerous grammatical and/or spelling errors?

A RECOGNIZED STANDARDS-BASED NEWS SOURCE

Check: News or something else? Is this a straight news report or something else, such as an opinion piece? (Remember: Opinion journalism doesn't try to be unbiased.)

Look for obvious problems. Is there anything in this report that seems "off" to you? Does it use loaded language, or contain other signs that it's unfair?

Look for other coverage. Are other credible standards-based outlets reporting the same thing?

Are the details clearly verified, or is the story still developing?

4. Take 60 seconds to...

5. One more minute to...

ON AN ONGOING BASIS

USER-GENERATED CONTENT

Follow fact-checkers. Add fact-checking organizations (see several below) to your social media feeds to help you identify misinformation patterns.

Learn best practices. Don't share memes or other posts if you're not sure that they are true; doing so only amplifies misinformation. Don't share links unless you have checked them out yourself.

Help others. Question the legitimacy of suspicious posts from accounts you follow; provide links to fact checks in comments; talk to friends and family about their information habits.

AN UNFAMILIAR ORGANIZATION/SOURCE

Look for transparency. Is this source up front about who owns and runs it? Does it correct errors? Does it request and publish letters to the editor? Is it clear who is creating articles or posts?

Take note of unreliable sources. If an account repeatedly posts misleading or false information, avoid it.

A RECOGNIZED STANDARDS-BASED NEWS SOURCE

Learn the standards. Quality journalism is guided by aspirational standards (for example, the Society of Professional Journalists' [Code of Ethics](#)) that can help you recognize good reporting.

Develop a critical eye. Follow experts who frequently discuss journalism issues and critique news coverage.

6. Build savvy habits.

7. Deepen your expertise.

OVER TIME

Learn digital verification skills. Use widely available free resources online to teach yourself how to do reverse image searches, use geolocation tools (like [Google Street View](#)), search for archived webpages and use critical observation skills to do your own fact-checking.

Help protect others. False and misleading information seeks to exploit its audience. Warn others about sources that publish such content.

Dive into the field of journalism. Seek out reputable journalism organizations, subscribe to industry newsletters, listen to journalism podcasts, and read books and articles about the ways that journalism is changing.

<http://bit.ly/NewsLitTrust>

Purveyors of misinformation use a variety of tactics. The most common include presenting photos and videos out of context, making crude alterations to photos and documents, and fabricating quotes and social media posts for public figures.

[Factcheck.org](#), [Snopes](#), [Truth or Fiction](#), [Leaf Source](#) and [Ask a Fact Checker](#). Learn about organizations that train and support journalists, such as the [Poynter Institute](#), [First Draft](#), the [News Leaders Association](#) and the [Society of Professional Journalists](#).



✔ Real-time teachable moments



Check it out at
newslit.org/educators/sift/



Pelosi fake fuels ongoing debate



A screenshot of a side-by-side [comparison](#) by [The Washington Post](#) showing the differences between the authentic video of Nancy Pelosi's May 22 speech at a Center for American Progress event and a version whose speed and tone were manipulated to make it appear that she was slurring her words.

When a video of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that [had been doctored to make her speech sound slurred](#) was posted to a partisan Facebook page on May 22, it quickly went viral. It also touched off a string of interrelated discussions — about the potential for fake videos to mislead voters in the 2020 presidential election; about the way social media platforms should respond to such videos; and about the role of news media in covering examples of political misinformation.

Some noted the irony in the fact that [amid ongoing concern over sophisticated "deepfake" videos](#) fueled by artificial intelligence, such a low-tech manipulation — a ["cheap fake," "dumb fake" or "shallow fake"](#) — would fool so many people and cause so much disruption. The incident also [reinvigorated the debate](#) over the responsibilities that social media companies may — or may not — have for the



informable



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News Literacy Project

Gain valuable skills

- Detect faulty evidence
- Identify fact-based and opinion-based statements
- Spot ads
- Distinguish news from opinion

Five unique game modes

Select a Mode

- AD ON NOT
- EVIDENCE ON NOT
- NEWS ON OPINION
- CHECKABLE ON NOT
- MIX-UP MODE

Learn more about the News Literacy Project.

Can you spot the ads?

Ad or Not?

379,893 likes

Headlines: The REU! summer collection is here! Check it out at Walmart.com today.

Ad Not

The News Literacy Project

Select a Mode

AD OR NOT

EVIDENCE OR NOT

NEWS OR OPINION

CHECKABLE OR NOT

MIX-UP MODE

Complete the 4 challenges above to unlock



News or Opinion?

CNN

CNN Opinion LIVE TV

The dangerous idea lurking behind the new SAT score

By Jeff Yang

Posted at 4:41 PM ET, Sat May 18, 2019



Does it matter which college you go to? 01:56

News

Opinion

Ad or Not?



CVS Pharmacy @cvspharmacy

How do you prepare for cold and flu season? With #CoughColdRelief or a #FluShot?



Tweet #CoughColdRelief

Tweet #FluShot

10:53 AM - 11/28/18 - Twitter Ads Composer

Ad

Not

Evidence or Not?



Sujei =) @sujeilugo

The FEMA "meals" my brother received today... #HuracánMaría



16:36 - 11/10/17 - Flamingo for Android

Evidence

Not

#NewsLitCamp

Might your school district be interested?

We are exploring future dates and locations!

bit.ly/NLCinterest



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Numbers from 2017 - 2020

21
NLCs

22
news orgs

11
states

(plus D.C.)

1271
educators



177
journalists



NewsLitCamp® over the years
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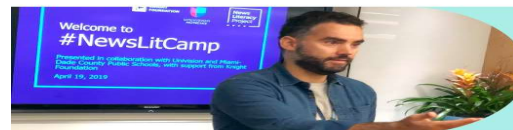
21
NLCs

22
news orgs

11
states

(plus D.C.)

1271
educators



177
journalists



Presentations & resources:

bit.ly/newslitPDresources

Note: link is case-sensitive

Your feedback is appreciated!

We use it to improve our professional development offerings.

<http://bit.ly/NLPpdsurvey>

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Thank you for joining us today



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