
Can your students tell fact from fiction?

Young people are dealing with the most challenging information ecosystem in human history, rife with misinformation, hoaxes and falsehoods that distort students' understanding of their world. To become critical thinkers who demand the truth, they must develop news literacy skills.

The Challenge

According to research:



90%

of teens and pre-teens use social media; 76% of them get news there.



44%

of teens and pre-teens believe that they know the difference between fake and real news.



31%

of teens and pre-teens have shared information that they later learned was false or inaccurate.

(Source: Common Sense Media)

The Solution

We believe that news literacy education — learning how to know what to believe — is the most effective approach to meeting this challenge. The Checkology virtual classroom, the News Literacy Project's online learning platform, teaches students to separate fact from fiction, to understand the vital role of a free press in a democracy, and to become informed and engaged participants in civic life.



The Checkology Difference

Checkology is a browser-based platform that enables educators to equip students in middle school and high school with the tools to evaluate and interpret news and other information so they know what to trust, share and act on.



13 interactive lessons

(one translated into Spanish) with exercises, quizzes and challenges.



Taught by

respected journalists

and experts in digital media and the First Amendment.

Premium licenses include all lessons and are available at a modest per-student price. Basic access, which offers four foundational lessons, is offered at no cost.

Standards-Based

Checkology lessons meet state curriculum standards in social studies and English/language arts.

Assessment-Based

We know that Checkology works because we measure students' knowledge before and after they complete our lessons. In the 2018-19 school year, we found:



69%

More than two-thirds of the students who completed Checkology lessons were able to identify the standards of quality journalism.



2X

The number of students who understand the First Amendment and the watchdog role of a free press doubles after completing Checkology lessons.

Students tell us that Checkology builds confidence and civic engagement.



68%



More than two-thirds of students surveyed after using the platform said they planned to become more engaged in civic issues and more active in their communities.



For Teachers

Checkology includes lessons requested by educators, enhanced interactivity and design, and game-like exercises where students can practice their skills. Teachers can customize and sequence lessons based on classroom objectives. **Checkology encourages both independent and collaborative learning and allows students to progress at their own pace.**

What teachers say about Checkology



100%

Active teacher users surveyed were unanimous that it improves students' news literacy skills.



88%

call the virtual classroom "excellent" or "very good."

By the numbers

- Almost **20,000** registered educators (and counting) since **2016**.
- **50** states, the District of Columbia and four U.S. territories.
- More than **100** countries outside the U.S.

In their own words



"As a result of the work with Checkology, students feel more confident in their ability to find something that is reputable. It's a really comprehensive tool. It's empowered me to be a better teacher of the material."

— Kelly Melendez Loaiza, high school science teacher, Mansfield, Massachusetts



"I have really loved all of the resources I've gained and the knowledge my students are walking away with ... and the skills that they're able to apply to their own reading and consumption of media."

— Nicole Finnesand, high school teacher, Colton, South Dakota

For Students

Interactive features enable students to:

- Click on an interactive map of the world to "travel" to a country to hear about press freedoms from a local journalist.
- Play the role of reporter in a game-like simulation of a breaking news scene to learn the standards of quality journalism.
- Earn digital badges as they successfully master concepts and complete lessons.

The Newsroom to Classroom program connects journalist volunteers with educators to provide real-world learning through in-person or virtual classroom visits.

In their own words



"I think if I didn't have this class or had my teacher talk to us about this, I wouldn't have registered to vote or voted."

— Musse Yimer, high school student, Arlington, Virginia



"The biggest challenge of a teenager about getting information is knowing if it's real or not. I improve day by day as I get on Checkology."

— Nayaisha Edmond, high school student, Chicago, Illinois



"Using Checkology definitely made it easier for me to put into words what I'm trying to express to them [her parents] when I talk about the news. I think my parents take me a little bit more seriously. Because I'm more literate and I sound professional now."

— Daniela Rangel, high school student, Van Nuys, California

The Lessons

Checkology offers a dynamic and relevant news literacy curriculum:

InfoZones

Host: Tracie Potts
of NBC News

Democracy's Watchdog

Host: Wesley Lowery
of The Washington Post

Misinformation

Host: Claire Wardle
of First Draft

Practicing Quality Journalism / Practicando el periodismo de calidad

Host: Enrique Acevedo
of Univision Noticias

What Is News?

Host: Paul Saltzman
of the Chicago Sun-Times

Be the Editor

Students test their
news judgment skills

The First Amendment

Host: Sam Chaltain,
a First Amendment expert

Citizen Watchdogs

Host: Tamerra Griffin
of BuzzFeed News

Introduction to Algorithms

Host: Nicco Mele of the
Shorenstein Center on Media,
Politics and Public Policy at the
Harvard Kennedy School

Branded Content

Host: Emily Withrow of
Quartz Bot Studio and
Northwestern University

Understanding Bias

Host: Indira Lakshmanan
of the Pulitzer Center

Arguments & Evidence

Host: Kimberley Strassel
of The Wall Street Journal

Press Freedoms Around the World

Host: Soraya Sarhaddi Nelson
of NPR



About the News Literacy Project

The News Literacy Project, a nonpartisan national education nonprofit, provides educators with tools and resources to teach their students how to navigate today's complex information landscape, learn to judge the credibility of information for themselves, and become engaged and informed participants in our democracy.

To learn how you can get Checkology for your students, email edservices@newslit.org or call **202-715-3722**.

Give facts a fighting chance.

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