What it means to be ‘news-literate’

The skills you need to be reliably informed

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• 13 years in Chicago Public Schools (middle school and high school social studies teacher).
• NBCT in Social Studies-History.
What is news literacy?
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
All of the Las Vegas hotels have donated food and rooms for emergency personnel in Las Vegas except for one: The Trump International Hotel Las Vegas.

FALSE

RUMORS
"When the state puts you in jail for walking in a park with your child because it's too dangerous but let's criminals out of jail. It's not about your health!"

KEVIN SORBO

Propaganda
CONSPIRACY THEORIES
MISINFORMATION
News literacy skills apply to the content and the source of information – not the platform.
What will you find if you search for these claims?
Can you 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 and elderly are especially vulnerable.
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 intended to share an opinion or perspective and, often, to try to **persuade** you to adopt or support a specific point of view about an issue or subject.
Is this news or opinion?

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

154 likes

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?
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.
Key standards of quality journalism

- Verification
- Sourcing
- Fairness
- Accountability and transparency
- Context
Recognize types and forms of bias.
Do you perceive bias in this headline?

“USS Theodore Roosevelt commander relieved of duty”
Is this more biased, less biased, or about the same?

“Navy removes aircraft carrier captain who raised alarm about coronavirus response”
Is this more biased, less biased or about the same?

“Commander of aircraft carrier hit by coronavirus removed for ‘poor judgment’ after sounding alarm”
Rank these from most to least biased:

1. “USS Theodore Roosevelt commander relieved of duty”

2. “Navy removes aircraft carrier captain who raised alarm about coronavirus response”

3. “Commander of aircraft carrier hit by coronavirus removed for ‘poor judgment’ after sounding alarm”
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?
Sources for these headlines (all straight news):

“USS Theodore Roosevelt commander relieved of duty”

“Navy removes aircraft carrier captain who raised alarm about coronavirus response”

“Commander of aircraft carrier hit by coronavirus removed for ‘poor judgment’ after sounding alarm”
Understanding Bias

**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.

**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.

**“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.

**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.
The News Literacy Project

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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:
Efficacy of these charts for determining bias in news

- These charts often reflect the orientation of opinion writers/commentators and the perceptions held by the general public.
- Some sources focus almost entirely on commentary, opinion or propaganda.
- These charts are highly subjective/debatable when it comes to straight news.
- They may even over-simplify a complex issue and discourage critical evaluation.
Evaluate posts for evidence.
Does this post provide evidence to support its claim?
Does this post provide evidence to support its claim?

38% of U.S. adults identify as politically independent, but most “lean” toward one of the two major political parties. [pewrsr.ch/2LMgcWI](pewrsr.ch/2LMgcWI)
Margarine is ONE MOLECULE away from Plastic; and shares 27 ingredients with Paint. Bon Appetit!

38% of U.S. adults identify as politically independent, but most “lean” toward one of the two major political parties. pewrsr.ch/2LMgcWI

Michelle Case
Yikes!!
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!
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?
Fact-check using lateral reading.
Reagan was on to something and some things never change.

Nancy Pelosi is extremely evil, she comes from the Baltimore democrat corruption machine the D’Alesandro family, both her father Tom D’Alesandro and her brother Tommy D’Alesandro were mayors of Baltimore, a well oiled corrupt democrat family.
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.
Fact-check using reverse image search.
Reverse image search

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

NOTE: Results must be evaluated carefully just like with lateral reading.
THIS is the image of Che Guevara that should be seen on t-shirts.
Here is Che Guevara executing helpless women in Cuba. People who revere and celebrate him are fools. Che was a heartless communist murderer with a bloodlust.

THIS is the image of Che Guevara that should be seen on t-shirts.
THIS is the image of Che Guevara that should be seen on t-shirts.
Recognize satire.
The Onion 🧐 @TheOnion · 13h
Best Buy Employee Wearing Different Colored Shirt For Some Reason
trib.al/hWBL1r4
CNN Moderator Challenges Sanders’ Support For Women By Asking Him To Name Every Part Of Female Reproductive System [link]
#DemDebate
Progressives Admit They're Just Not Used To Killing People Who Might Fight Back

U.S.—Many have been criticizing the left for their apparent unwillingness to say that killing terrorists is a good thing. Many suspected they just... babylonbee.com
They want me to where a mask?? I DONT THANK SO

9:14 PM · Apr 3, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone
Satire is a type of misinformation.

- Humor is an emotional response.
- Even well-labeled satire is often shared out of context or plagiarized.
- “I was just kidding” user-generated posts can go viral.
- Verification of content and source is the same as other forms of misinformation.
Questions for exploration
How do these apply to our social media feeds?

- Slow down; check emotions.
- Differentiate news from opinion.
- Understand types and forms of bias.
- Evaluate sources for evidence.
- Fact-check using lateral reading.
- Fact-check using reverse image search.
- Recognize satire.
How would you talk to your kids about these?

- Slow down; check emotions.
- Differentiate news from opinion.
- Understand types and forms of bias.
- Evaluate sources for evidence.
- Fact-check using lateral reading.
- Fact-check using reverse image search.
- Recognize satire.
How can we model these for family and friends?

- Slow down; check emotions.
- Differentiate news from opinion.
- Understand types and forms of bias.
- Evaluate sources for evidence.
- Fact-check using lateral reading.
- Fact-check using reverse image search.
- Recognize satire.
News literacy is an essential life skill.
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1. Information is the basis for civic literacy, agency and action.
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2. We interact daily with the largest and most complex information landscape in human history.
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1. Information is the basis for civic literacy, agency and action.

2. We interact daily with the largest and most complex information landscape in human history.

3. Looking critically at the information we share and the sources we use can help slow the spread of misinformation.
Q & A time!
(then I’ll share resources)
News Literacy Project resources
News Literacy Professional Development Series

- **MAY 7**: What it means to be ‘news-literate’
- **MAY 14**: Exploring the misinformation landscape
- **MAY 21**: Is it legit? Teaching digital verification to spark news literacy learning
- **MAY 28**: Understanding bias: A nuanced approach to a vital news literacy topic

The News Literacy Project
News Literacy Professional Development Series

Register free:

https://newslit.org/coronavirus

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
The News Literacy Project

informable

Are you informable?

Gain valuable skills

Five unique game modes

Can you spot the ads?

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

Ad or Not?

Available on the App Store

Get it on Google Play
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

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

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

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

16:36 - 11/10/17 - Flamingo for Android
Can your students tell the difference between fact and fiction?

The Checkology® virtual classroom can help.

Register now

Sign up for free access
Schedule a Classroom Connection, either in person or online, with one of our journalist volunteers.
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 “clean 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
Your feedback is appreciated!

We use it to improve our professional development offerings.

NOTE: The link is case-sensitive.

Thank you for joining us today