
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 recent 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 2017-18 school year, we found:



95%
identified freedom of the press as a First Amendment protection, up from 78%.



70%
recognized that "investigative journalists often protect the interest of ordinary citizens," up from 52%.

Checkology changes student attitudes.



94%
thought that having a free press is "important" or "very important" in a democracy, up from 80%.



61%
thought that it's "always" important to check if information is true before sharing it on social media, up from 46%.

Students tell us that Checkology builds confidence and civic engagement.



93%
said they were more confident in their ability to detect misinformation, such as false news and viral rumors.



81%
said they were more likely to become civically engaged (voting when eligible, engaging in political activity or publishing their opinion in some way).

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



98%
feel more confident teaching news literacy.



88%
call the virtual classroom “excellent” or “very good.”

By the numbers

- **18,000** 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



“This is the third year that I am using Checkology. I have consistently seen in my students that use Checkology that they consistently check claims that they think are dubious.”

— David Teegham, high school teacher,
Chicago, Illinois



“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.

By the numbers

- **128,000** (and counting) students using Checkology licenses since **2016**.

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.

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: James Dao of The New York Times.

Arguments & Evidence

Host: Kimberley Strassel of The Wall Street Journal.

Press Freedoms Around the World

Host: Soraya Sarhaddi Nelson of NPR.

News Literacy Project



About the News Literacy Project

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

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

Give facts a fighting chance.

newslit.org

checkology.org

 info@newslit.org

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