News Literacy Project

What it means to be 'news-literate'

The skills you need to be reliably informed

April 28, 2020

John Silva, NBCT
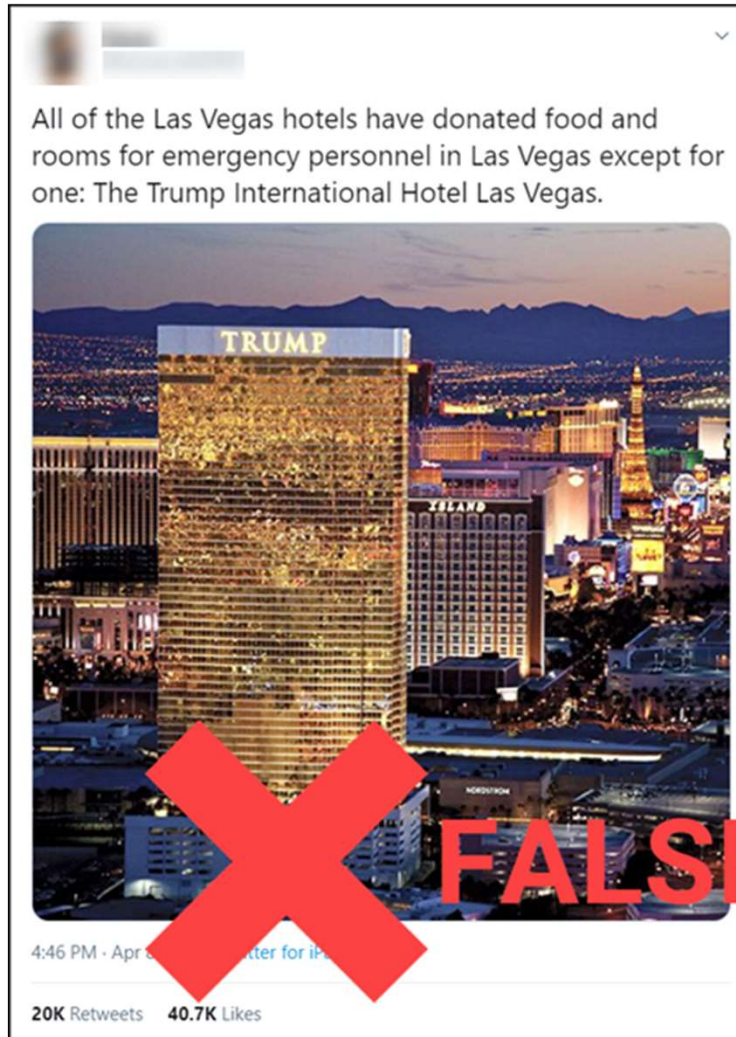Director of education

@MrSilva

- Developer of curriculum resources and professional development for educators.

- Joined NLP in March 2017.

- 13 years in Chicago Public Schools (middle school and high school social studies teacher).

- NBCT in Social Studies-History.

What is news literacy?
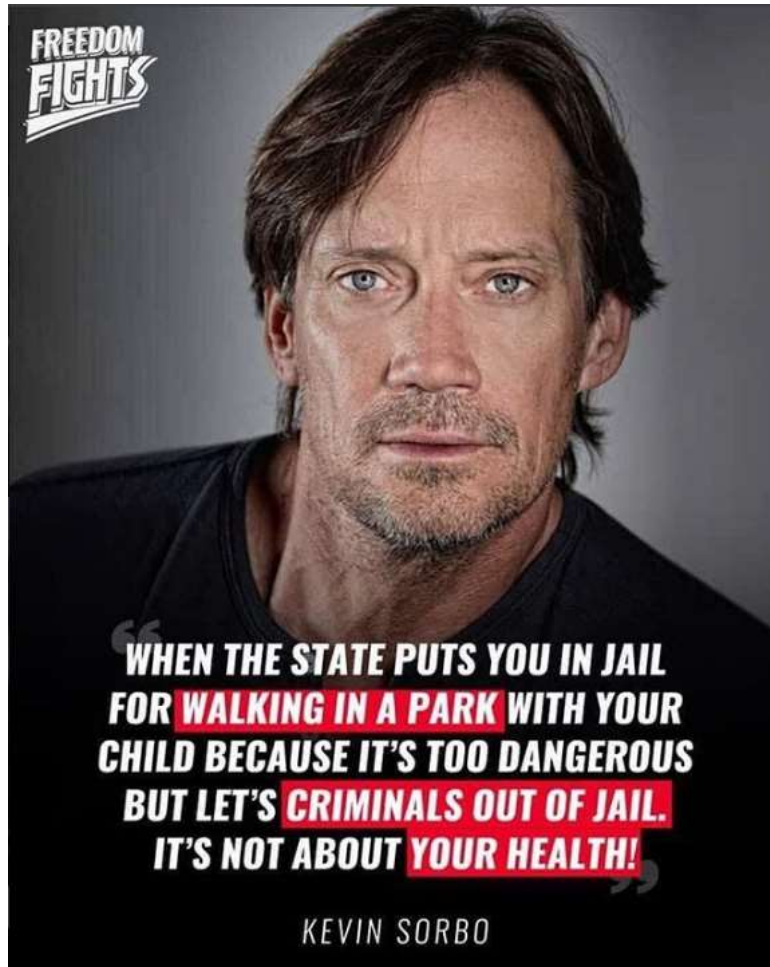
News literacy is the ability to …

- 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.

TRUMP

ISLAND

NORDSTROM

FALSE

4:46 PM · Apr ... tter for iP...

20K Retweets   40.7K Likes

RUMORS

FREEDOM FIGHTS

"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

• Follow

_____ Preach it Kevin! This was never about health! Money and control are the only things that matter to "them". #coronahoax #coronavirus #planneddemic

1h

PROPAGANDA

2 likes

1 HOUR AGO

Add a comment...   Post

CONSPIRACY THEORIES

The News Literacy Project

MISINFORMATION

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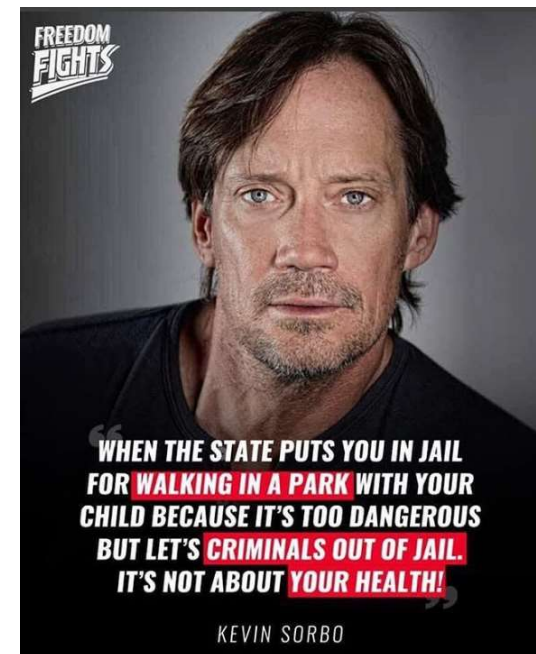
News literacy skills apply to the content and the source of information – not the platform.

What will you find if you search for these claims?

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.

4:46 PM · Apr ... ter for i...

20K Retweets   40.7K Likes

FALSE

VACCINES CAUSE

Myasthenia Gravis   Seizures

Eczema   Encephalomyelitis

    Autoimmunity

Miscarriage   Pneumonia

    Guillain Barre

Transverse myelitis

@vaxxtruthbandit · 19h ago
Made this for a special friend who is refusing to research 🤦 #Vaccines #VaccinesWork #Science #Denial #ImADoctorToo...   See more

♫ Karaoke Version] - Party T

Admin · April 22 at 11:00 AM

1980's...
LET'S INFECT COMPUTERS WITH VIRUS AND THEN SELL ANTIVIRUS SOFTWARE...

2019...
LET'S INFECT PEOPLE WITH VIRUS AND THEN SELL VACCINE...

FREEDOM FIGHTS

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

Can <u>you</u> 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?

informable
The News Literacy Project

---

postopinions
United States Department of the Treasury
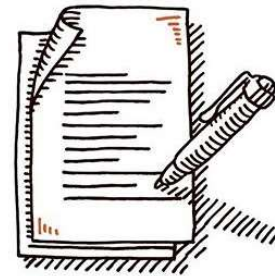
FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

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

The News Literacy Project

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 →

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.
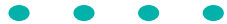
Do you perceive bias in this headline?

"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

TYPES

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

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.

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.

FORMS

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.

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.

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:
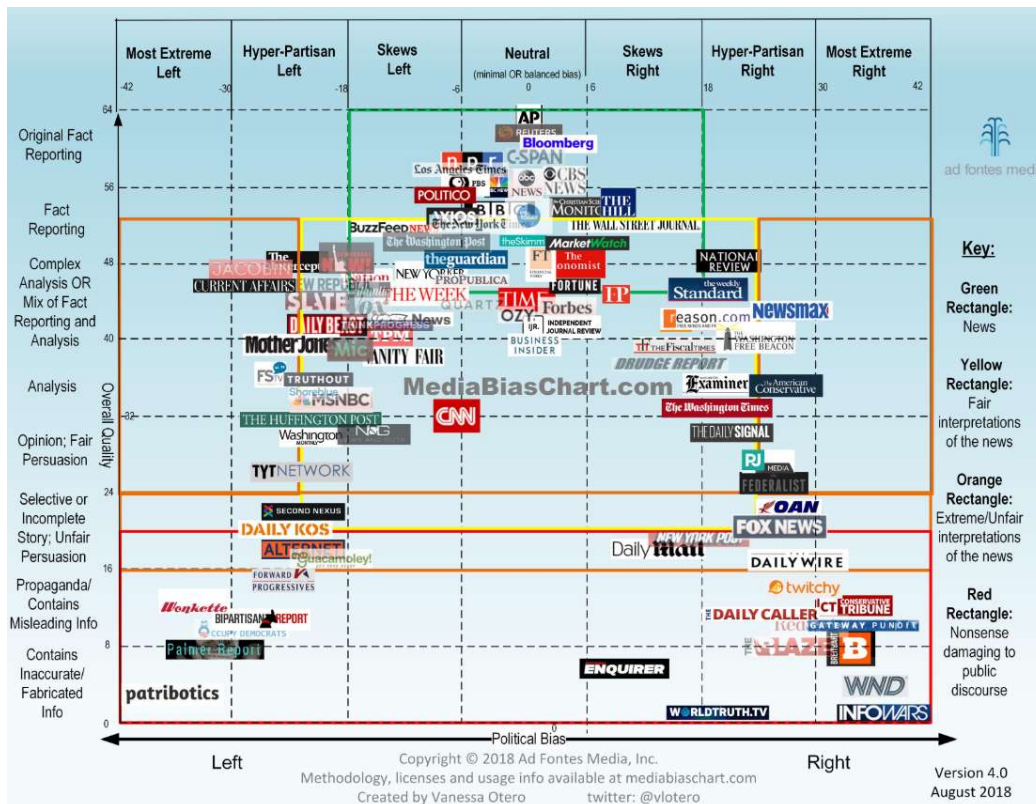
Efficacy of these charts for determining bias in news

- 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.

The News Literacy Project

Evaluate posts for evidence.

Does this post provide evidence to support its claim?

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

healthy holistic living

Michelle Case
Yikes!!

Mobile Uploads · Apr 14 · 🌐

Does this post provide evidence to support its claim?
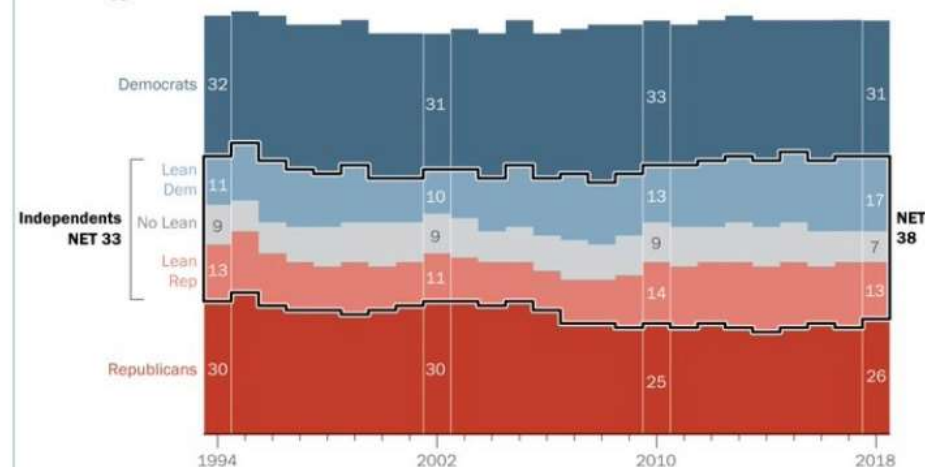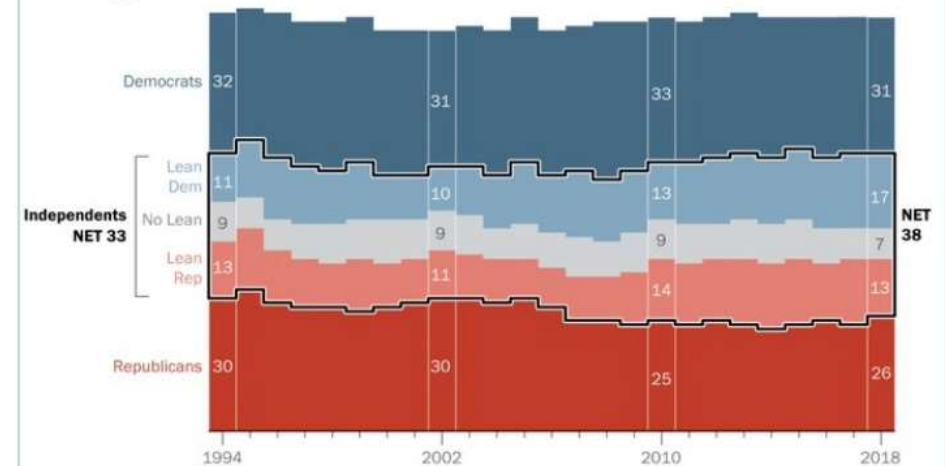

Pew Research Center ✔
@pewresearch

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 ...

Democrats 32 … 31 … 33 … 31

Independents NET 33
Lean Dem 11 … 10 … 13 … 17
No Lean 9 … 9 … 9 … 7
Lean Rep 13 … 11 … 14 … 13
NET 38

Republicans 30 … 30 … 25 … 26

1994   2002   2010   2018

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

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

informable
The News Literacy Project

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

healthy holistic living

Michelle Case
Yikes!!

Mobile Uploads · Apr 14 · 🌐

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 ...

Democrats	32		31	33	31
Lean Dem	11		10	13	17
Independents NET 33 — No Lean	9		9	9	7	NET 38
Lean Rep	13		11	14	13
Republicans	30		30	25	26

1994   2002   2010   2018

Note: Other party/Don't know responses not shown.
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

Stanford History Education Group

- 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.

Nationalist Andrew @Nationalists31 · Jan 6

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.

Replying to @mosheifargan

THIS is the image of Che Guevara
that should be seen on t-shirts.

8:11 AM · Jan 17, 2020 · Twitter for Android

Replying to @

THIS is the image of Che Guevara
that should be seen on t-shirts.

8:11

Here is Che Guevara executing helpless women in Cuba.
People who revere and celbrate him are fools. Che was
a heartless communist murderer with a bloodlust.

10:54 AM · Nov 21, 2017 · Twitter Web Client

· Nov 21, 2017

This is for all the Liberal ▓▓▓▓ College students out there, wearing **Che
Guevara T-shirts**. #LiberalismIsAMentalDisorder
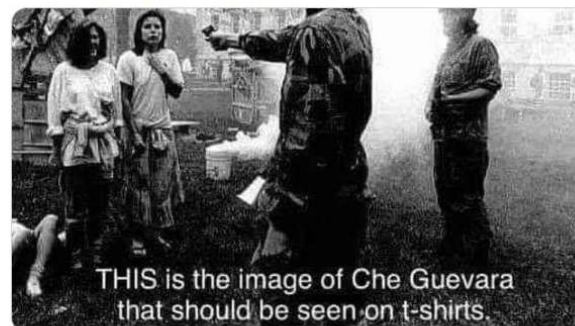
♡ 1   ↻ 1   ♡ 2   ↑

· Jul 26, 2018

For all the socialist loving # ▓▓▓, this is the **image** that should be seen on
all **Che Guevara**
t-shirts.

#AlexandriaOcasioCortez
#BernieSanders #SocialismKills
#ELG
👇👇👇👇👇👇👇👇👇👇

THIS is the image of Che Guevara
that should be seen on t-shirts.

♡ 86   ↻ 1.1K   ♡ 1.1K   ↑

· Nov 21, 2017

This is for all the Liberal ▓▓▓▓ College students out there, wearing **Che
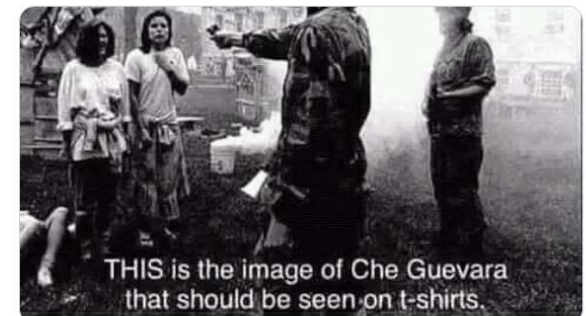Guevara T-shirts**. #LiberalismIsAMentalDisorder

♡ 1   ↻ 1   ♡ 2   ↑

· Dec 16, 2018

Replying to @N▓▓▓▓▓▓▓
Please this is the picture of Che Guevara that should be everywhere

THIS is the image of Che Guevara
that should be seen on t-shirts.

♡   ↻ 1   ♡   ↑

twitter.com/ricmuly/status/1218174066630197248

← **Tweet**

Ricardo Almuly
@ricmuly

Replying to @mosheifargan

THIS is the image of Che Guevara
that should be seen on t-shirts.

8:11 AM · Jan 17, 2020 · Twitter for Android

Q Search Twitter

Relevant people

Ricardo Almuly
@ricmuly   Follow

דמוקרטיה היא שני זאבים וכיבשה
המצביעים מה לאכול בארוחת צהריים

משה איפרגן
@mosheifargan   Follow

United States trends ⚙

#IrresistABowls
You can't resist Applebee's New Irresist-A-
Bowls, starting at $7.99!
⤢ Promoted by Applebee's

1 · Basketball · Trending   ⌄
Clippers
92.5K Tweets

NBA
Knicks agree to trade Marcus
Morris in a three-team deal wi...

2 · NBA · Trending   ⌄
Drummond

Home
Explore
Notifications
Messages
Bookmarks
Lists
Profile
More

Tweet

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 · 10h ∨

CNN Moderator Challenges Sanders' Support For Women By Asking Him To Name Every Part Of Female Reproductive System trib.al/aTYb3Tx #DemDebate

Bernie Sanders

💬 69   ↻ 1.2K   ♡ 7.2K   ⬆

The Babylon Bee @TheBabylonBee · 14h

Progressives Admit They're Just Not Used To Killing People Who Might Fight Back

Progressives Admit They're Just Not Used To Killing People Who Might ...
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

💬 120   ⟲ 1.9K   ♡ 7.1K   ⬆️

The Babylon Bee
7,293 Tweets

The Babylon Bee
@TheBabylonBee

Fake news you can trust.

🔗 babylonbee.com 📅 Joined February 2016

47 Following   **343.7K** Followers

Followed by Devin Nunes' Alt-Mom, Trump's Karma 🌍 ⭐⭐⭐, and 11 others you follow

Tweets   Tweets & replies   Media   Likes

Brent Terhune
@BrentTerhune

They want me to where a mask?? I DONT THANK SO

619.4K views   0:00 / 2:18

9:14 PM · Apr 3, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

← **Brent Terhune**
18.7K Tweets

Brent Terhune
@BrentTerhune

Comedian. Podcast: The Field Trip w/ Brent Terhune

🔗 tinyurl.com/rcc9c5h   📅 Joined April 2009

4,205 Following   **61.8K** Followers

⋯ Follow

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.

The News Literacy Project

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.
"

"

News literacy is an essential life skill.

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

"

News literacy is an essential life skill.

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.

"

News literacy is an essential life skill.

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://bit.ly/maynewslitpd

https://newslit.org/coronavirus

informable

Available on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

The News Literacy Project

Are you informable?

informable

Log in

Create an Account

Play as a Guest

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 OR NOT
EVIDENCE OR NOT
NEWS OR OPINION
CHECKABLE OR NOT

MIX-UP MODE

Learn more about the News Literacy Project.

Can you spot the ads?

Ad or Not?

Ad   Not
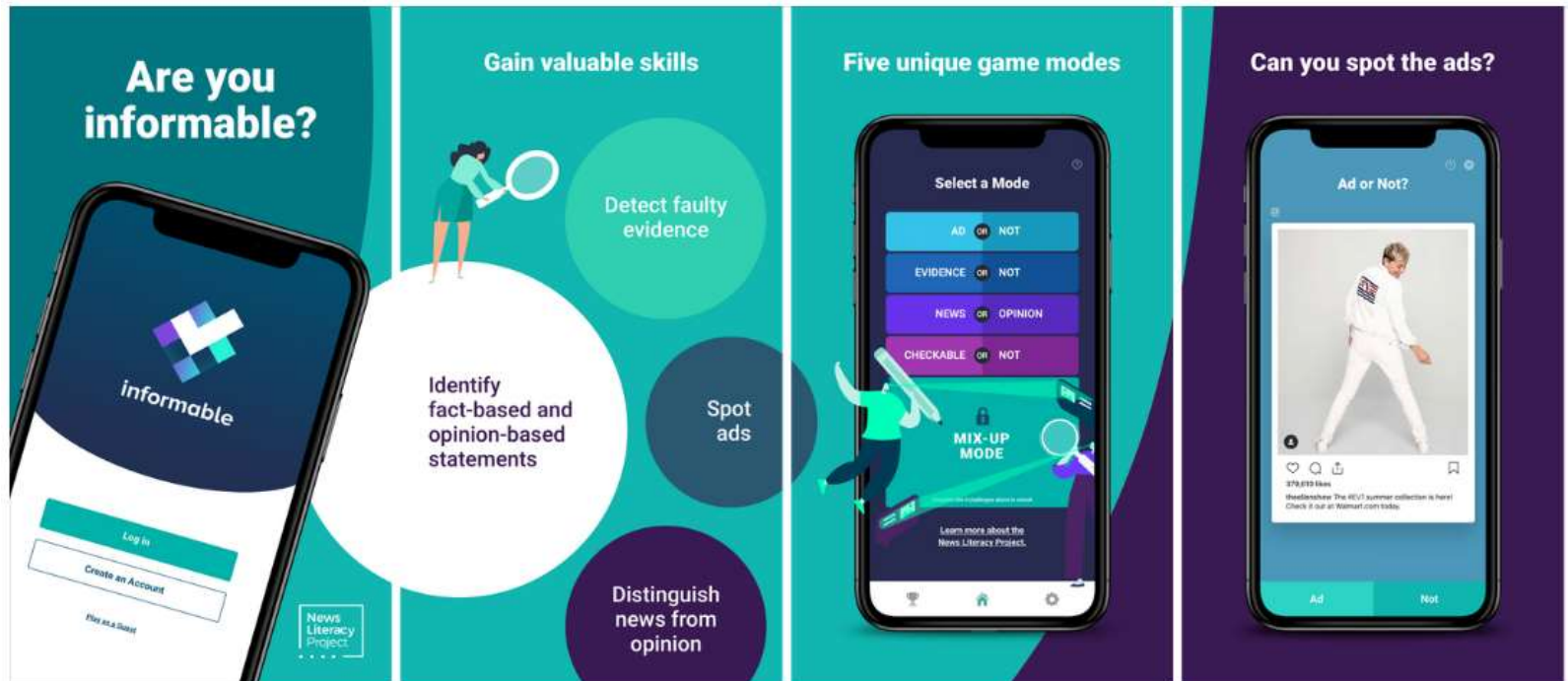
Select a Mode

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?

NyQuil

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

For educators: https://get.checkology.org

THE checkcenter

Quick Check   **Toolbox**   **Missions**

Got a claim that is 100% text? Start here.

Text claim only >

Image only

Video only

Image or video with a claim

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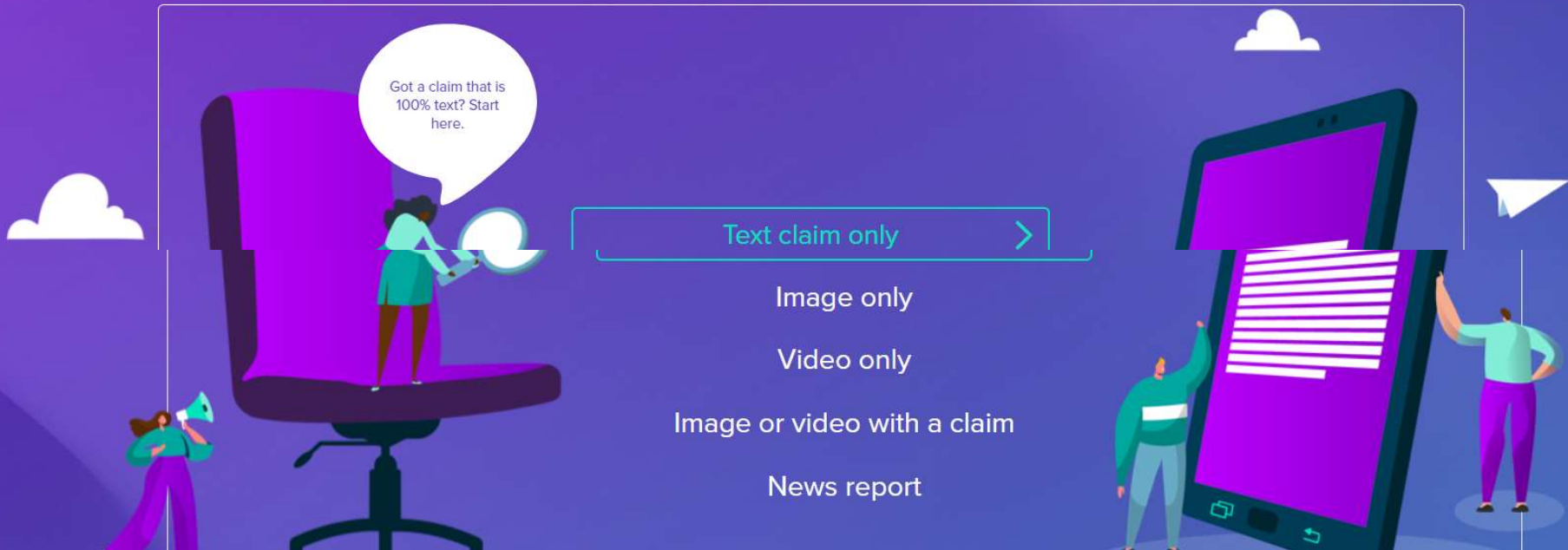
Schedule a Classroom Connection, either in person or online, with one of our journalist volunteers.

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

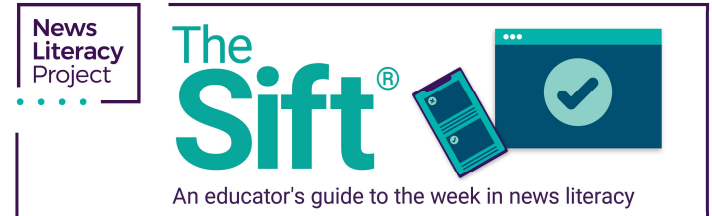**George Bodarky**
WFUV

Danielle Ivory
The New York Times

LA Johnson
NPR

✓ Real-time teachable moments

. . . . ─────────────────

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

News Literacy Project

The Sift®
An educator's guide to the week in news literacy

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

Your feedback is appreciated!

We use it to improve our professional development offerings.

NOTE: The link is case-sensitive.

http://bit.ly/NLPpdsurvey

The News Literacy Project

Thank you for joining us today

News Literacy Project

How to know what to believe

/TheNewsLiteracyProject @NewsLitProject @NewsLitProject

LinkedIn.com/company/the-news-literacy-project @NewsLitProject