



Framework for Teaching News Literacy

Suggested Curricular Scope and Sequence

Developed using the [Understanding by Design](#)® template (Wiggins and McTighe, 2005)

The [mission](#) of the News Literacy Project is to develop active consumers of news and information able to determine the credibility of news and other content, identify different types of information, and use the standards of authoritative, fact-based journalism to determine what to trust, share and act on. The ultimate goal is to equip learners to become self-sufficient and productive with news and have an equal opportunity to participate in the civic life of their communities and the country.

The Framework for Teaching News Literacy is designed to support educators in working toward this mission by providing common standards, essential questions, and knowledge/skills objectives, along with suggested performance tasks and learning activities. Our framework can be used for integrating news literacy into existing curriculum, or as the basis for creating stand-alone courses or units.

The NLP Framework is organized around the 3-stage, “backward design” process of [Understanding by Design \(UbD\)](#)®, a widely used curriculum design framework developed by Wiggins and McTighe (2005). UbD focuses on building the conceptual understandings (the “big ideas”) associated with becoming news-literate and preparing students to apply their learning in authentic ways. UbD connects best practices in planning, teaching and assessing based on research in [cognitive psychology and validated by studies on student achievement](#). It ensures educational value by offering time to teach and time to learn through deepened understanding with clearly articulated desired results.

Stage 1— Identify Desired Results

Established Goals	Transfer	
<p>The News Literacy Project uses five primary standards to define the core competencies students need to be news-literate. These standards invoke a combination of knowledge, skills and mindsets that are required to recognize credible information, avoid being exploited by misinformation and make informed, empowered choices.</p> <p>Standard 1: Students distinguish news from other types of information and can recognize both traditional and nontraditional advertisements.</p> <p>Standard 2: Students acknowledge the importance of the First Amendment in American democracy and a free press to an informed public.</p> <p>Standard 3: Students understand why professional and ethical standards are necessary to produce quality journalism, and they can apply understanding of those standards to discern credible information and sources for themselves.</p> <p>Standard 4: Students demonstrate increased critical habits of mind, including effective verification skills and the ability to detect misinformation and faulty evidence.</p> <p>Standard 5: Students express and exercise civic responsibility by seeking, sharing and producing credible information as effective participants in a democracy.</p>	<p><i>Students will be able to independently use their learning to...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinguish news from other types of information. • Demonstrate a healthy skepticism toward information. • Identify credible information and sources. • Detect misinformation and faulty evidence. • Positively contribute to the information landscape by sharing verified and credible information and calling out misinformation. 	
	Meaning	
	<p>UNDERSTANDINGS <i>Students will understand that...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different types of information exist for different purposes. • No source of information is perfect, but not all information is created equal. • A free press protects the public interest by acting as a watchdog on government and powerful groups. • Quality journalism has rigorous standards designed to produce fair, accurate and timely information about newsworthy issues and events for the public. • Credible information empowers individuals and invigorates democracy. • Misinformation corrupts reasoned civic discourse, decisions and actions, and damages and distorts democracy. • Responsible civic engagement requires individuals to be active, critical consumers and sharers of information. 	<p>ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS <i>Students will keep considering...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In what ways do news and information shape society? • What distinguishes facts from opinions, and why does the distinction matter for productive discourse? • What does it mean to be news-literate? • How is quality journalism produced? • How can we know what to believe? What makes a piece of information credible? • Why does news matter? • How can misinformation and false beliefs undermine an individual's participation in a democracy and threaten the political process? • How do press freedoms and news literacy strengthen democracy? • What does it look like to be a responsible and news-literate participant in a democracy?
	Acquisition	
	<p><i>Students will know...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How journalists determine which events and issues to cover in a given news cycle. • The five freedoms protected by the First Amendment. • How the press can play a watchdog role. • How the public can play a watchdog role. • What press freedoms are and how they are protected or threatened in countries around the world. • How algorithms personalize information for individual consumers in both beneficial and potentially harmful ways. • What news media bias is and how it might show itself in coverage. • Seven standards of quality journalism. • What conspiracy theories are, why people find them compelling, and the impact of conspiratorial thinking. 	<p><i>Students will be skilled at...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differentiating information based on its primary purpose among six main "InfoZones." • Identifying branded content. • Identifying credible sources of information and those that lack credibility about a given subject. • Identifying and differentiating between different types of misinformation. • Evaluating the impact of misinformation. • Differentiating between valid and invalid evidence, and between sound and unsound claims, to determine the strength of an argument. • Using digital verification methods like "lateral reading" and reverse image search to evaluate information. • Feeling empowered to engage in civic actions such as checking information before sharing and responding to information that is problematic in some way.

Stage 2 – Evidence

PERFORMANCE TASKS

Performance tasks are rich, authentic learning experiences which teachers can assess with specific criteria. The News Literacy Project currently only offers descriptions of some suggested performance tasks. We recommend developing performance tasks and rubrics for your students that fit their unique interests while also addressing the essential questions and desired understandings.

Some suggestions include:

Evaluative Criteria	Coding	Assessment Evidence
Teachers should identify criteria to judge how well students succeed in these performance tasks. Think about criteria such as clarity, accuracy, organization, how well students explain themselves, and how well they critique a source.	Standard 1	<i>InfoZone Coordinator</i> – Students choose something they’re interested in and find as many examples as possible from different InfoZones that relate to it. For example, a student can choose “Tik Tok,” and find and accurately classify examples of advertisements about the social media site, entertainment about Tik Tok, opinion about Tik Tok, etc. Students are able to explain how each piece of information might affect a consumer’s perception of the chosen entity. Then students will create an infographic to teach their parents or other adults about the different ways topics can be presented in an information ecosystem.
	Standard 3	<i>Be a Reporter</i> – Students write a news report for their classmates using the seven standards of quality journalism. Students will annotate their finished article to demonstrate how they addressed each of the standards of quality journalism. OR Students analyze the top stories of a local news outlet – on the front page of a local newspaper, on the homepage of a local news website or the top stories in a newscast – and decide which story they think is the most newsworthy that day. In a response, students will justify their decision using the four factors of newsworthiness (timely, important, unique and interesting).
	Standard 2	<i>Press Badge</i> – Students utilize online press freedom indexes to investigate what conditions impact a country's press freedoms ranking. Students then contribute to a class discussion about what the term "press freedoms" refers to. What should journalists/reporters be able to say or do and why? How can the government affect press freedoms? What is it like for journalists, reporters and concerned individuals in countries that do not have certain press freedoms? After the discussion, students design an aspirational press badge – one that includes all the freedoms they think a country with a healthy, strong democracy should have. On the back of their press badge, students answer the question, "Why are these freedoms important for a strong democracy?"

	Standard 4	<p><u>Fact-Checker</u> – Students review examples of misinformation on major fact-checking websites (such as Factcheck.org, Snopes and PolitiFact) and identify a rumor pattern or cluster about a given topic. They should create a list of “red flags” – signs that content might not be credible – to watch out for, using examples from the debunked viral rumors. Then ask them to create a social media post warning others to be on the lookout for this misinformation trend and directing them to credible sources about the subject. To conclude, they will describe the impact of misinformation on society, and in a democracy in particular, with the class.</p>
	Standards 1, 3 and 5	<p><i>Self Moderator</i> – Students keep track of the social media posts they share for a week. At the end of the week, students calculate what percentage of their social media shares featured fact-based statements (versus opinion-based), what percentage they fact-checked or otherwise verified before sharing (versus what percentage they shared un-checked) and what percentage were from credible news sources based on the standards of quality journalism (versus other types of content). At the end, students write a written report sharing their percentages and reflecting on the following: What makes for a healthy information diet? Did you share content that fits with your vision for a healthy information diet? Did anything you share have the potential to misinform people or spread confusion? Why or why not? What, if anything, might you do differently on social media as a result of this exercise?</p>
	Standard 5	<p><i>Civic Bucket List</i> – Students create a list of civically engaged actions and rank them in order of which they’d like to try first. Then, students write a short reflection answering two questions: 1) What makes you feel more ready or excited to try actions higher up your list? 2) What might make you feel more confident or excited to tackle actions that are currently further down your list?</p> <p>Tip: Challenge students to actually complete three! Use the options from NLP’s Checkology® student growth measure: Follow or seek out news from multiple credible sources, follow or seek out professional fact-checking sites, push back on misinformation when you see or hear it, engage in respectful debate with someone who has a different view than yours, reflect on the strengths and limitations of your own perspective, explore a variety of opinions on the same topic, reference credible sources when you share your opinion, reach out to a journalist or news outlet to offer feedback on a story.</p>
	Standards 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5	<p><i>A News Artist</i> – Students create an artistic interpretation of what news literacy is and why it is important to be news-literate, aimed at people who tend not to engage with news. They should be sure to address how to distinguish news from other types of information, the importance of the First Amendment, the standards of quality journalism, how to detect misinformation and how to be civically engaged.</p>
<p>* Have a suggestion or example you want to share? Email us at info@newslit.org.</p>		

SUPPLEMENTARY EVIDENCE

The News Literacy Project offers numerous checks for comprehension:

- The [Checkology student growth measure](#) assesses student knowledge using questions about key understandings and skills from the framework.
- **Formative assessments** are embedded in all Checkology lessons that require students to demonstrate comprehension and practice skills. These come in many forms, such as traditional and media multiple choice questions, re-ordering and ranking items, matching items, choosing the correct image or answer, text explanations, and more.
- **Exercises** allow for additional practice with assessments that mimic those found in Checkology lessons.
- **Challenges** allow for extensions of concepts introduced in Checkology lessons.
- **Missions** allow for additional practice of fact-checking skills learned in Checkology lessons and the Check Center Toolbox.

This list is not comprehensive. Each Checkology lesson overview contains topical essential questions to guide discussions (click on the links in Stage 3). You can also use popular methods like assigning graphic organizers, checking students' notes, and documenting student growth in questions and understanding. Teacher-designed assessments like these, along with informal checks for understanding through observations and anecdotal record-keeping, are invaluable. You should determine what types and quantities of evidence would best suit the needs for your classrooms.

Student Self-Assessment and Reflection

Periodic response-to-text writing tasks are embedded in Checkology lessons. Teachers can support additional student self-assessment and reflection with instructional strategies like [exit tickets](#), [reflection logs](#) and [concept mapping](#).

Stage 3 – Plan Learning Experiences


Pre-assessment

The Checkology [student growth measure](#) assesses key understandings and skills from the framework. Students take a pre-assessment before using Checkology and then they answer post-assessment questions (as listed in Stage 2).

Note: There are a number of questions that are important in the field but are not included in the Checkology student growth measure assessment. This assessment is used for NLP purposes to evaluate the efficacy of our resources and focused on acquiring data for internal purposes. Click [here](#) for a broad list of questions you may use to independently assess news literacy skills, knowledge and habits of mind.

Learning Events




Engage or “hook” students in a study on news literacy in whatever manner you deem best. Some popular methods are [K-W-L](#) and [I-charts](#). It is crucial to get students thinking and wondering about key concepts and questions surrounding news literacy before diving into lessons. Introduce and discuss the [framework’s essential questions](#), and then plan your lesson sequence. We recommend the content topics listed below.



Pick and choose which Checkology lessons, supplementary exercises and challenges (Practice and Extend), missions (Fact-Check), and other learning experiences — such as inviting journalists from our [Newsroom to Classroom](#) program to speak with students — fit your course structure. Click on the lesson title to preview it and view associated materials, including overviews with topical questions, full lesson plans and tips from the field. Try to select at least one from each standard. We’ve marked specific lessons we feel are strong “core” lessons with the  icon.



As you work through lessons, think about how to extend learning by providing opportunities to return to and reflect on essential questions and understandings; teacher-led discussions about domain-specific vocabulary, concepts and difficult and provocative questions are crucial in furthering students’ understanding. Be sure to tailor lessons for your students’ interests, needs, and classroom dynamic.



The sequence is outlined in terms of standard progression, but this may not be the best way to organize materials for your classroom or district. Consider integrating the lessons in a spiral format that allows for a recurring, ever-deepening inquiry approach to news literacy. Periodically revisit content with which students struggle; when students are confused, this is prime learning time. Probe trouble-spot content and skills in more complex and deeper ways through additional practice with supplemental materials and different teaching strategies, such as collaborative learning and discussion.



Whatever order you choose, be flexible and move back and forth between what is known and unknown: design related challenges for students to maximize learning so that students systematically increase their knowledge in depth and breadth, periodically demonstrating their growth through various assessments. Ultimately, the order of material should reflect the learners’ needs.



Coding	Learning Event
S1 A, M	<p data-bbox="327 131 1913 164">Coding Key: S= standard (If more than one standard is addressed, the main standard is bolded), A= acquisition, M= meaning, T= transfer</p> <p data-bbox="205 217 758 250"><u>InfoZones</u> (and associated resources) CORE</p>  <p data-bbox="254 428 1934 488">➤ I can analyze examples of information and categorize them by determining their primary purpose (news, opinion, entertainment, advertising, propaganda and raw information)</p> <p data-bbox="205 516 386 548">Related content</p>
S1, S3 A, M	<p data-bbox="205 607 709 639"><u>What is News?</u> (and associated resources)</p>  <p data-bbox="254 815 1822 847">➤ I can explain what newsworthiness is and name the four major factors (timely, important, interesting and unique) that determine it.</p> <p data-bbox="254 872 1535 904">➤ I can develop my own sense of news judgment by evaluating the newsworthiness of a series of examples.</p> <p data-bbox="205 932 386 964">Related content</p>
S1, S3 A, M	<p data-bbox="205 1018 686 1050"><u>Be the Editor</u> (and associated resources)</p>  <p data-bbox="254 1226 1990 1286">➤ I can apply and extend my news judgment skills by comparing the newsworthiness (a measure of how timely, important, interesting and unique a story is) of a group of dissimilar news stories and support and defend my choices.</p> <p data-bbox="205 1313 386 1346">Related content</p>




Coding	Learning Event
S1, S3 A, M T	<p data-bbox="323 131 1913 164">Coding Key: S= standard (If more than one standard is addressed, the main standard is bolded), A= acquisition, M= meaning, T= transfer</p> <p data-bbox="201 191 735 224">Branded Content (and associated resources)</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="254 402 2011 464">➤ I can identify advertising content that has been labeled in some way and explain how it differs from traditional advertising (this includes native ads and placements of ads, and all relate to the concepts of transparency, independence and credibility). <li data-bbox="254 492 1986 553">➤ I can describe some of the major factors that have influenced the development of such packaging, including why it's desirable for marketers and difficult for news organizations. <p data-bbox="201 581 390 613">Related content</p>
S2 A, M	<p data-bbox="201 695 894 727">The First Amendment (and associated resources) CORE</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="254 906 1997 938">➤ I can name the five freedoms protected by the First Amendment (of the press, to assemble, of speech, to petition the government and of religion). <li data-bbox="254 966 1866 1211">➤ I can explore and analyze six landmark First Amendment cases, judge them myself, and critique the Supreme Court's decision in each: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="344 1024 978 1052">■ West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette <li data-bbox="344 1057 1110 1084">■ Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District <li data-bbox="344 1089 753 1117">■ New York Times Co. v. Sullivan <li data-bbox="344 1122 852 1149">■ Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier <li data-bbox="344 1154 596 1182">■ Texas v. Johnson <li data-bbox="344 1187 548 1214">■ Reno v. ACLU <p data-bbox="201 1247 390 1279">Related content</p>

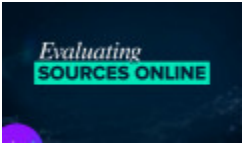

Coding	Learning Event
S2 A, M	<p data-bbox="323 131 1913 164">Coding Key: S= standard (If more than one standard is addressed, the main standard is bolded), A= acquisition, M= meaning, T= transfer</p> <p data-bbox="201 217 915 250"><u>Democracy's Watchdog</u> (and associated resources) CORE</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="249 428 1419 461">➤ I can explore five iconic examples of investigative journalism and determine the impact of each: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="344 488 1388 516">■ Nellie Bly, 1887, reported on conditions at a women's lunatic asylum in New York City. <li data-bbox="344 521 1121 548">■ Ida B. Wells, 1892, exposed the horrors of lynching in America. <li data-bbox="344 553 1367 581">■ Seymour Hersh, 1969, reported the massacre of villagers by U.S. troops in Vietnam. <li data-bbox="344 586 2011 646">■ Richard Marosi and Don Bartletti, 2014, documented unsafe working conditions, unethical payment practices and the brutal exploitation of child laborers at large produce farms in Mexico. <li data-bbox="344 651 1801 678">■ Wesley Lowery and other reporters from The Washington Post, 2015, created a nationwide database of police shootings. <li data-bbox="249 711 1167 738">➤ I can explain the "watchdog role" of the press and describe its importance. <p data-bbox="201 769 386 797">Related content</p>
S2 A, M	<p data-bbox="201 857 758 889"><u>Citizen Watchdogs</u> (and associated resources)</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="249 1065 1129 1092">➤ I can name several ways that ordinary people can play a watchdog role. <li data-bbox="249 1125 1031 1153">➤ I can explain the details of four citizen watchdog case studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="344 1182 1709 1209">■ Los Angeles resident George Holliday captures the brutal beating of a Black man, Rodney King, by police in 1991. <li data-bbox="344 1214 1734 1242">■ Tobacco executive Dr. Jeffrey Wigand goes public with information about the harmful effects of cigarettes in 1996. <li data-bbox="344 1247 1625 1274">■ Young Egyptians bypass government media in 2011 to take part in a revolution known as the Arab Spring. <li data-bbox="344 1279 1724 1307">■ Diamond Reynolds uses Facebook to livestream the police shooting of Philando Castile and its aftermath in 2016. <li data-bbox="249 1339 1163 1367">➤ I can describe the relationship between citizen watchdogs and journalists. <p data-bbox="201 1398 386 1425">Related content</p>



Coding	Learning Event
S2 A, M	<p data-bbox="327 131 1913 164">Coding Key: S= standard (If more than one standard is addressed, the main standard is bolded), A= acquisition, M= meaning, T= transfer</p> <p data-bbox="205 191 680 224"><u>Power in Art</u> (and associated resources)</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="254 402 1656 435">➤ I can identify the primary elements of an editorial cartoon and explain how they work together to express an opinion. <li data-bbox="254 459 1230 492">➤ I can summarize how editorial cartoons have held people in power accountable. <li data-bbox="254 516 1423 548">➤ I can distinguish between functional and harmful representations of groups in political cartoons. <li data-bbox="254 573 848 605">➤ I can analyze and interpret an editorial cartoon. <li data-bbox="254 630 1331 662">➤ I can describe why diverse voices and perspectives are important in editorial cartooning. <li data-bbox="254 686 1419 719">➤ I can explain how modern forms of graphic political expression compare with editorial cartoons. <p data-bbox="205 751 386 784">Related content</p>
S2 A, M	<p data-bbox="205 841 940 873"><u>Press Freedoms Around the World</u> (and associated resources)</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="254 1052 2032 1198">➤ I can explain what press freedom is and compare the ways that different countries protect – or restrict – it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="344 1109 2032 1198">■ Press Freedom is the degree of the legal and/or constitutional protections that journalists have to do their jobs, and whether they are able to report freely without fear of retaliation. It includes four main elements: legal protection, treatment of journalists, judicial protection and ownership of the media. <li data-bbox="254 1230 2011 1295">➤ I can synthesize information from watchdog organizations that track how journalists are treated in different countries to create a profile explaining the level of press freedoms in a specific country. <p data-bbox="205 1320 386 1352">Related content</p>


Coding	Learning Event
S3 A, M, T	<p data-bbox="325 131 1913 164">Coding Key: S= standard (If more than one standard is addressed, the main standard is bolded), A= acquisition, M= meaning, T= transfer</p> <p data-bbox="203 217 989 250">Practicing Quality Journalism (and associated resources) CORE</p>  <ul data-bbox="249 430 2032 548" style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ I can list and explain seven major standards of quality journalism (multiple credible sources, verification, avoidance of bias, balance, documentation, context and fairness). ➤ I can apply those standards to differentiate between a credible news report and an unreliable news report. <p data-bbox="203 602 1969 634">We strongly recommend assigning "Evaluating sources online" after "Practicing Quality Journalism" to put this lesson's concepts into practice. CORE</p> <p data-bbox="203 662 390 695">Related content</p>
S3 A, M, T	<p data-bbox="203 751 751 784">Harm and Distrust (and associated resources)</p>  <ul data-bbox="249 961 2032 1463" style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ I can summarize the role journalism aspires to play in American democracy. ➤ I can explain why news coverage that fails to fairly and accurately reflect the experiences and realities of all communities and groups of people falls short of the standards of quality journalism. ➤ I can explain why it's important for communities to be able to trust news organizations to tell their stories accurately. ➤ I can list historical examples of legacy media failing to live up to its duty to minimize harm in relation to Black communities in the U.S. ➤ I can explain why many Black Americans distrust legacy media and can apply this understanding to coverage of other groups of historically marginalized people. ➤ I can summarize the essential role the Black press played in countering biased and racist narratives during Reconstruction and beyond. ➤ I can recognize examples of overt racial bias in contemporary news coverage. ➤ I can describe the watchdog role I can play in advocating for changes to make newsrooms more equitable and representative of the communities

Coding	Learning Event
	<p>they serve.</p> <p>Related content</p>
<p>S3, S4 A, M</p>	<p><u>Understanding Bias</u> (and associated resources)</p>  <p>➤ I can explain how bias in news coverage is a complex issue.</p> <p>➤ I can discuss the role people’s own biases play in perceptions of bias in media.</p> <p>➤ I can recognize five types of bias (partisan, demographic, corporate, “big story” and neutrality) and five forms (framing, absence of fairness and balance, tone, story selection and sourcing) these biases can take in news coverage.</p> <p>Related content</p>
<p>S4 A, M</p>	<p><u>Introduction to Algorithms</u> (and associated resources)</p>  <p>➤ I can explain how algorithms use data to personalize information for individuals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Algorithms are used to suggest content that is the most relevant, interesting and helpful to a given user – often to hold their attention so targeted ads can be delivered. Algorithms draw on enormous collections of data that include our browsing histories, the location of our IP addresses and even keywords used in communications on free email and social media platforms. <p>➤ I can describe the advantages and disadvantages of this technology.</p> <p>Related content</p>

Coding	Learning Event
<p>S4, S5 A, M</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Coding Key: S= standard (If more than one standard is addressed, the main standard is bolded), A= acquisition, M= meaning, T= transfer</p> <p>Misinformation (and associated resources) CORE</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ I can identify and differentiate between different types of misinformation (satire, false content, imposter content, manipulated content, fabricated content). ➤ I can explain why understanding and debunking misinformation matters. ➤ I can evaluate and explain the possible consequences of misinformation. <p>Students should complete the “Verifying social media content” challenge.</p> <p>Related content</p>
<p>S4 A, M</p>	<p>Arguments and Evidence (and associated resources)</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ I can differentiate between claims supported by actual evidence and sound reasoning and those that rely on faulty or inauthentic “evidence” and logical fallacies (ad hominem, false equivalence, slippery slope, false dilemma and straw man). ➤ I can determine the overall strength of an argument. <p>Related content</p>
<p>S4 M, T</p>	<p>Evaluating Evidence Online CORE</p> 

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	<p>Coding Key: S= standard (If more than one standard is addressed, the main standard is bolded), A= acquisition, M= meaning, T= transfer</p> <p>➤ I can distinguish between posts that don't provide strong evidence in support of the claims they make and those that do.</p> <p>Note: "Evaluating Evidence Online" pairs well with "Arguments and Evidence" and "Evaluating Science-Based Claims."</p>
S4 M, T	<p>Evaluating Sources Online CORE</p>  <p>➤ I can differentiate between sources of information online that are unreliable and those that provide independent, verified information.</p> <p>Note: Students should complete this lesson after "Practicing Quality Journalism."</p>
S4 A, M, T	<p>Making Sense of Data (and associated resources)</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ I can explain why data isn't objective or infallible. ➤ I can differentiate between credible and questionable sources of data. ➤ I can explain some of the primary ways data can be distorted in misleading ways. ➤ I can interpret different ways data is presented. ➤ I can identify charts and other data visualizations that are misleading and explain why. <p>Related content</p>

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<p>S4 A, M, T</p>	<p><u>Evaluating Science-Based Claims</u> (and associated resources)</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ I can differentiate between science-based claims and nonscience claims. ➤ I can explain why science is never 100% certain about anything and why this is one of its strengths. ➤ I can differentiate between a scientific hypothesis and a scientific theory. ➤ I can explain what makes people vulnerable to pseudoscience and why some people doubt, resist and deny the scientific consensus about some topics. ➤ I can evaluate science-based claims using plausibility judgments, evidence and the scientific consensus. ➤ I can recognize common problems with science news coverage. <p>Related content</p>
<p>S4 A, M, T</p>	<p><u>Be Health Informed</u> (and associated resources)</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ I can evaluate health and wellness information. ➤ I can explain why people are vulnerable to health misinformation. ➤ I can list key characteristics of quality health information. ➤ I can describe common red flags to watch out for when encountering health misinformation. <p>Related content</p>

Coding	Learning Event
<p>S4, S5 A, M, T</p>	<p>Coding Key: S= standard (If more than one standard is addressed, the main standard is bolded), A= acquisition, M= meaning, T= transfer</p> <p>Conspiratorial Thinking (and associated resources)</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ I can explain what “conspiracy theories” are (unfounded explanations of an event or situation that blame the secretive work of sinister, powerful people, such as a government, a company or even one person), and why people find them appealing and compelling (motivated reasoning, institutional cynicism, illusory pattern perception, etc.). ➤ I can describe what conspiratorial thinking is (thinking based on faulty logic, complex psychological needs and false evidence) and the role it plays in making conspiracy theories engaging and compelling to people (they offer simple narratives, take advantage of our vulnerabilities and provide a sense of community). ➤ I can evaluate whether an explanation for a scenario is based on either strong or faulty evidence. ➤ I can explain how the need to reconcile contradictions in worldviews leads people to cling to false beliefs and find “evidence” that doesn’t exist or dismiss credible evidence that does. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Proportionality bias, intentionality bias and confirmation bias are key cognitive biases that address cognitive dissonance. ➤ I can demonstrate the social and political impact of conspiratorial thinking and conspiracy theories. <p>Related content</p>
<p>S4 T</p>	<p>RumorGuard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ RumorGuard curates significant and timely examples of mis- and disinformation and provides key news literacy takeaways and insights.
<p>S4 A, M</p>	<p>Key Word Wall terms (verification, transparency, fairness, bias, watchdog role, misinformation/disinformation, propaganda, conspiracy theory and more). ** Must be logged in to your Checkology account*</p>
<p>S1-S5 A, M, T</p>	<p>Newsroom to Classroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This program connects educators with trained and vetted NLP journalist volunteers who will visit classrooms either in person or virtually. It is free but only available to registered Checkology users.

Learning Event	
Coding	Coding Key: S= standard (If more than one standard is addressed, the main standard is bolded), A= acquisition, M= meaning, T= transfer
S1-S5 A, M, T	<p><u>The Sift</u> newsletter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This weekly email newsletter delivers relevant media news and recent examples of misinformation, along with prompts and tips for classroom discussions and activities.
S1-S5 A, M, T	<p><u>News Goggles</u> videos and <u>slides</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ News Goggles annotations and activities offer news literacy takeaways on timely topics. These resources feature examples of actual news coverage, including full news reports, headlines, breaking news alerts or excerpts. They can be found under “Classroom Activities” in the resource library.

Progress Monitoring
<p>Look over student notes, organizers and responses in Checkology, and evaluate student contributions during discussions. Offer appropriate feedback and follow-up activities.</p> <p>Students who need additional practice will benefit from supplementary activities, such as the ones linked in this section.</p>

A sample unit plan for grades 3-6 can be found [here](#). If you have a unit plan you'd like to share with us, email us at info@newslit.org. To see how the concepts, content and skills listed in this document can progress from PreK-12, view our [Grade band expectations for news literacy](#).