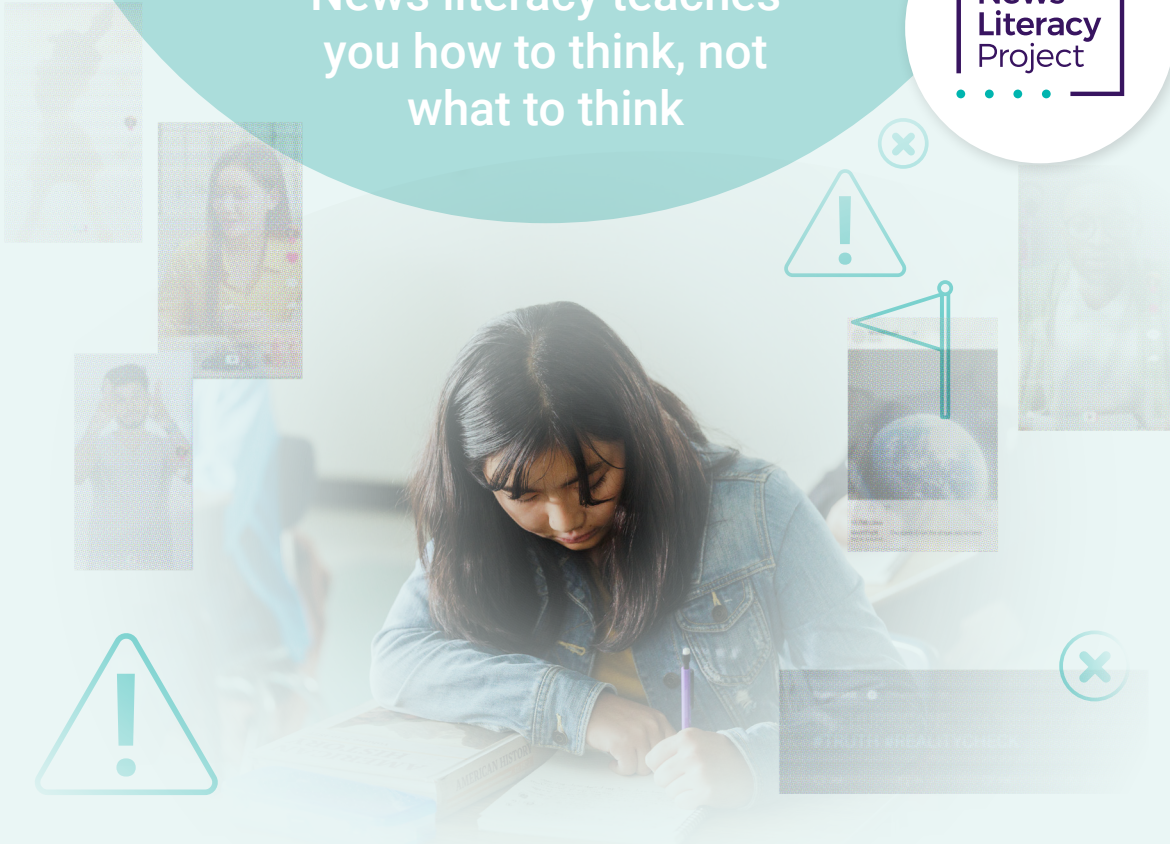


What Is News Literacy?

News literacy teaches you how to think, not what to think

News
Literacy
Project



NEWS LITERACY is the ability to judge whether news and other information is trustworthy. It is a key life skill and an important part of any media literacy, digital literacy or civics education program.

It helps students to:

- ▶ Understand why a free press matters in a democracy.
- ▶ Tell the difference between reliable news and false or misleading information.
- ▶ Spot their own bias and look for facts — not just information that supports what they already believe.
- ▶ Use trustworthy information to make smart choices in daily life.



What is the News Literacy Project?

The News Literacy Project is a nonpartisan education nonprofit that works with teachers, school districts, states and community groups like libraries and after-school clubs to make sure students in all 50 states get news literacy lessons before graduating high school.

NLP says it's nonpartisan, but is that really the case?

Yes. We work to stay nonpartisan and balanced in everything we do.

Our goal is to teach students how to judge news and information for themselves, not tell them what to think. When we create resources, we use examples that show different viewpoints and political positions. We also involve people with many different perspectives and experiences as board members, lesson hosts and advisors.



NEWS LITERACY LEARNING STANDARDS

We focus on five key standards that outline the essential knowledge and skills students need to become confident, capable consumers of news and information.



Standard 1

Students can tell the difference between news and other kinds of information, such as opinion. They know how to spot ads and sponsored content.



Standard 2

Students understand why the First Amendment matters and how a free press helps keep the public informed.



Standard 3

Students learn about the rules and ethics that responsible journalists follow. They use this knowledge to tell the difference between credible news and unreliable sources.

Seven standards of quality journalism

- Multiple credible sources
- Verification
- Avoidance of bias
- Fairness
- Documentation
- Balance
- Context



Standard 4

Students build strong critical thinking skills. They check facts and sources, look for weak or false evidence and recognize misinformation.



Standard 5

Students grow into active, responsible citizens who know how to find, share and even create credible information to support a healthy democracy.

How do we know news literacy education works?

Each school year, we assess students' news literacy skills before they start using **Checkology**, then after they finish.

..... Impact of checkology®

During the 2024-25 school year, after completing lessons on Checkology:

82% 

of students identified the more credible of two articles on the same topic from two different sources — a gain of **23 percentage points** from before they started Checkology.

88% 

of students recognized when a social media post failed to provide credible evidence — a gain of **20 percentage points** from before they started Checkology.

81% 

of students recognized that a free press is very important to a healthy democracy — a gain of **17 percentage points** from before they started Checkology.

“It’s a civic responsibility to practice news literacy. I fear what it means for us if we have a society that lacks news literacy.”

— **Kelly Melendez Loaiza**,
pre-engineering teacher,
Rhode Island



More than ever,
news literacy is an
essential civic skill

Why is news literacy important now?

Young people are growing up in the most complex information environment in history. Schools need to help students make sense of the nonstop flow of news. Without a shared set of facts, they can’t make good choices about their lives or their government.

Consider these findings from our report *News Literacy in America: A survey of teen information attitudes, habits and skills (2024)*, available here, <https://newsliit.org/news-literacy-in-america/>.

- ▶ **Nearly half of teens** surveyed thought the press does more to harm democracy than to protect it.
- ▶ **Eight in 10 teens** surveyed reported seeing posts on social media that spread or promote conspiracy theories, and of those, **81%** said they were inclined to believe one or more of them.
- ▶ **Most teens** struggled to distinguish between different types of information, such as news, advertisement, opinion and entertainment.

How is news literacy different from media literacy, information literacy and digital literacy?

NEWS LITERACY helps students understand why trustworthy information and a free press are important in their lives and in a strong, healthy democracy.

Media literacy is a broad subject that teaches students to think critically about all the messages they see online and in life every day. This includes ads, news, TV shows, movies, music and video games.

Information literacy, which is related to library sciences, means being able to find, understand and use information in a smart and responsible way.

Digital literacy is the ability to use technology and online tools effectively, safely and responsibly.

Don't schools already teach this?

Some of these skills are included as required learning goals in different courses, and six states have passed laws about news or media literacy. But only three states require news literacy. Until news literacy is treated like math, social studies or English, it won't be seen as essential. That means that many students will graduate without knowing how to tell if information is trustworthy.

Bring news literacy to your district with the nation's leading provider of news literacy education.

For additional information, read our FAQ at <https://newslit.org/faq/>.

More information on news literacy education at the district level:

<https://newslit.org/district-fellowship/>.



Our mission

NLP advances the development and teaching of news literacy in K-12 education.



Our vision

All students in the United States are skilled in news literacy before they graduate from high school, preparing them to think critically and independently as active participants in society.

newslit.org

For a future founded on facts