

News and Social Media Literacy: Essential Skills for the Digital Age



Who Says Media

Teaching Essential News and Social Media Literacy Skills -



YouTube

A photograph of a man and a woman looking at a screen. The man is on the left, wearing a yellow shirt, and the woman is on the right, wearing a pink and blue top. They are both looking towards the right side of the frame. The background is a dark, textured grey.

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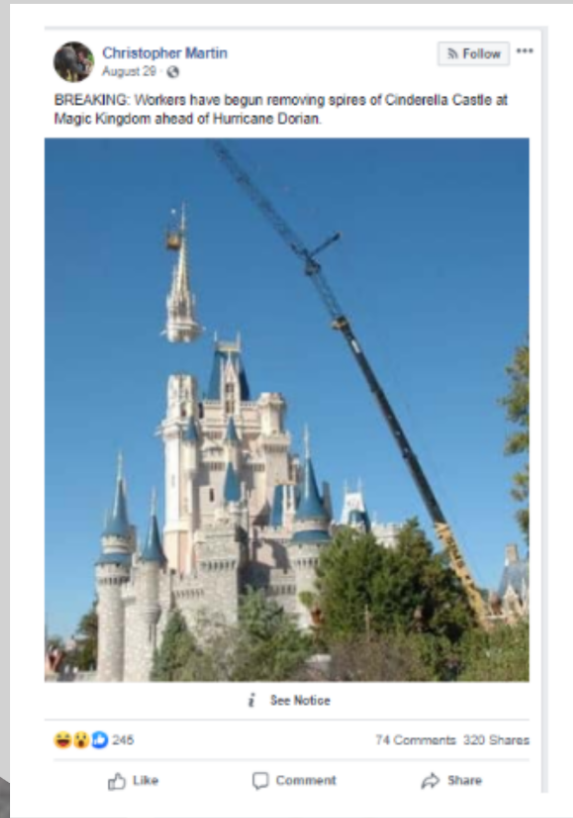


Which Trump Twitter account is the right one?

 <p>Donald J. Trump ✓ @realDonaldTrump 45th President of the United States of America 🇺🇸</p>	 <p>President Trump ✓ @POTUS 45th President of the United States of America. @realDonaldTrump. Tweets archived: wh.gov/privacy</p>	 <p>President Trump @Writeintrump A Parody Account of the Myth, the Man, the Legend that is Donald Trump</p>
 <p>Dunold Trump @PresidentTrump_ The 45th President of The United States of America. #MakeAmericaGreatAgain @BarackObama YOUR FIRED ! Not @POTUS that account is run by...</p>	 <p>Sarah Sanders ✓ @PressSec @WhiteHouse Press Secretary. Proudly representing @POTUS Trump's Administration. Tweets may be archived: wh.gov/privacy.</p>	 <p>President Trump @TheDonWins</p>

Disney World

Is this Instagram post accurate?





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Teens are inundated with information

- **95% have smartphones.**
- **45% report being online almost constantly.**

Teens, Social Media and Technology
Pew Study

March 7 to April 10 2018, 13- to 17-year-old
<http://www.pewinternet.org/2018/05/31/teens-social-media-technology-2018/>

**Teen
stats**

**Adult
Stats**



Tweens/Teens think they can spot fake news but can't

- **44% feel they can tell fake news stories from real ones.**
- **31% who shared a news story online say they later found out it was wrong.**

Common Sense Media Poll 10 to 18 year olds
Jan. 2017

<https://www.common sense media.org/research/news-and-americas-kids-infographic>

Adults can't ID fake news either

- **50% say made-up news is a very big problem for America.**
- **52% say they have shared fake news --a majority say they didn't realize it was fake at the time.**

Pew Research Center
June 2019 Adults

<https://www.journalism.org/2019/06/05/many-americans-say-made-up-news-is-a-critical-problem-that-needs-to-be-fixed/>

**Edelman
Trust**

**Disinformation
campaigns
worldwide**



Adults can't tell good journalism from bad

- **59% say “it is becoming harder to tell if a piece of news was produced by a respected media organization.”**
- **73% are still worried about fake news being used as a weapon.**


(Edelman Trust Barometer 2018/2019)

https://www.edelman.com/sites/g/files/aatuss191/files/2018-10/2018_Edelman_Trust_Barometer_Global_Report_FEB.pdf

A 2019 Oxford University study found that:



2020
Election

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a smartphone. The phone's screen is the central focus, but it is partially obscured by a large, semi-transparent grey circle. Inside this circle, the text "Heading into the 2020 election, disinformation is expected to increase." is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The background of the photo is a dark, textured surface, possibly a carpet or mat, with a sliver of a blue garment visible at the top right.

**Heading into the 2020
election, disinformation
is expected to increase.**

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Our pilot program

- **Bills are before the N.J. House and Senate requiring media literacy in our schools.**

With this program, the MBOE is ahead of the game.

- **The pilot project is based on best practices from journalists, news researchers and university media literacy programs.**
- **We will integrate essential 21-century skills into our students' learning.**

<https://medialiteracynow.org/your-state-legislation/new-jersey-legislation/>

Trials

What we are teaching



Developed by



Stanford History
Education Group

Trials

Trial 1

- **Two weeks at Buzz Aldrin Middle School.**
- **7th graders House 4.**
- **November/December 2019.**
- **Supported ELA argumentative writing curriculum.**

Trial 2

- **Two weeks at Buzz Aldrin Middle School.**
- **8th graders House 2 .**
- **February 2020.**
- **Supports research requirements while teaching above current standards using advanced digital skills.**

Trials 3 and 4

- **Montclair High School electives classes (Journalism)**
- **Core classes - ELA or SS**



What we are teaching:

- **To understand and Identify misinformation and disinformation.**
- **To recognize hallmarks of quality journalism.**
- **To question what they see and hear online and to immediately research it.**
- **To effectively use digital skills and tools like a news researcher.**
- **To understand how they create a digital footprint and how that footprint impacts what they are offered online.**

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Tik Tok

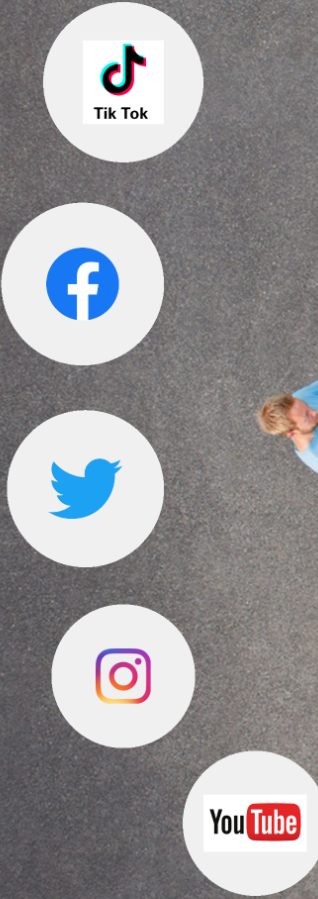


YouTube

A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a bright yellow tank top, is lying on her back on a grey carpet. She is looking towards the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a plain, textured carpet.

Where does this end up in the curriculum?

- **After evaluating the pilot project, MFEE would like to see it implemented by MPSD at all middle schools and Montclair High School for the 2020-2021 school year.**
- **Possibly incorporated into existing electives, core classes or developed into a new elective.**
- **It would be advantageous to introduce the concepts in middle school when many students get their first cell phones and are literally left to their own "devices" online.**
- **And then carry it through at a higher-level for high school students as they become more engaged citizens.**



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Feedback from the students

"It was relevant because I'm on social media a lot and because I'm on it so much I just tend to suck up all that fake information people were sending out so it was very helpful to find to learn all that so I know next time I see a suspicious post I can search."

"It will help us with everyday life because a lot of people believe that everything they see is true. But yet do not they know it is fake. So it helps me tell family members if the picture is real or fake that someone believes."

"I know what to look out for when I come across an article. I learned how to Google things better, and I learned how to separate fact from opinion."

**One last
anecdote:**



One last anecdote:

My 12-year-old overheard a boy come into chorus and say he had some gossip. He shared the gossip and one girl said, "Who's your source on that? Are they reliable?" Another boy chimes in "Yeah, are they a reliable source?" All three kids had been in the pilot program. My daughter said, "I think that was from your class. I don't think they would have said that before."

We love to see them internalizing the questioning attitude, the techniques and the vocabulary.



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