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

Tik Tok

Who Says Media
- Teaching Essential News and Social Media Literacy Skills -

MFEE

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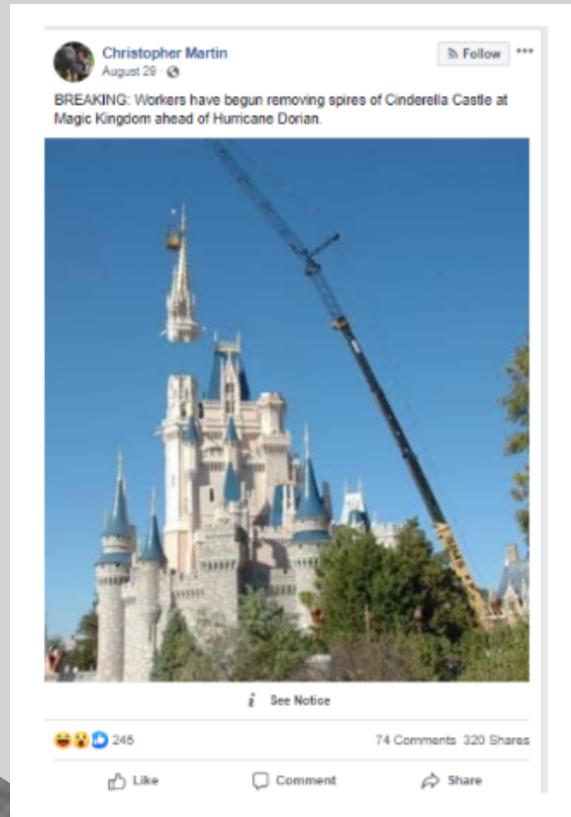- Teaching Essential News and Social Media Literacy Skills -

Which Trump Twitter account is the right one?

Donald J. Trump ✓
@realDonaldTrump

45th President of the United States of America 🇺🇸

President Trump ✓
@POTUS

45th President of the United States of America, @realDonaldTrump. Tweets archived: wh.gov/privacy

President Trump
@Writeintrump

A Parody Account of the Myth, the Man, the Legend that is Donald Trump

Dunold Trump
@PresidentTrump_

The 45th President of The United States of America. #MakeAmericaGreatAgain @BarackObama YOUR FIRED ! Not @POTUS that account is run by...

Sarah Sanders ✓
@PressSec

@WhiteHouse Press Secretary. Proudly representing @POTUS Trump's Administration. Tweets may be archived: wh.gov/privacy.

President Trump
@TheDonWins

Disney World

Is this Instagram post accurate?

Christopher Martin
August 29 · 🌐

BREAKING: Workers have begun removing spires of Cinderella Castle at Magic Kingdom ahead of Hurricane Dorian.

ⓘ See Notice

😂😮👍 246   74 Comments 320 Shares

👍 Like   💬 Comment   ↪ Share

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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.commonsensemedia.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:

150% the increase in countries using organised social media manipulation campaigns over the last two years

Number of Countries

28 — 2017
48 — 2018
70 — 2019

2020 Election

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

News Co/Lab
Arizona State University

COR
Civic Online Reasoning
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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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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