Planning your Checkology® experience

Registering Checkology accounts

Head to www.checkology.org and click "Register now" on the top right. After selecting the educator registration option, follow three quick steps to join your school and create your teacher account.

Exploring course assignments

1. Use the "Quick Lesson Info" sheet to find three lessons that relate to your curriculum.
2. Write lesson names in the left column and use the right column to record implementation ideas.

Lesson name:	Implementation ideas: (Use this space to make note of curriculum connections, student readiness, etc.)

What questions do you have?

Use the space below to write any questions you have for the presenter or the Checkology Help Center staff (checkologyhelp@newslit.org).

Questions:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Additional notes:

Quick Lesson Info:

Lesson name:	Description:	Learning objectives:	Other info:
InfoZones	Categorize information into one of six "zones": news, opinion, entertainment, advertising, propaganda or raw information.	➢ To analyze examples of information and categorize them by determining their primary purpose.	*Difficulty level:* 1 *Estimated student time on platform:* 60 minutes
What is News?	Explore how journalists "filter" information, or determine which events and issues to cover in a given news cycle, by using key criteria.	➢ To explain what newsworthiness is and name the four major factors that determine it. ➢ To develop my own sense of news judgment by evaluating the newsworthiness of a series of examples.	*Difficulty level:* 1.5 *Estimated student time on platform:* 45 minutes
Be the Editor	This interactive lesson tests students' news judgment as they select the most newsworthy stories to feature on the homepage of their news site, then explain their choices.	➢ To apply and extend my news judgment skills by comparing the newsworthiness of a group of dissimilar news stories and support and defend my choices.	*Difficulty level:* 2 *Estimated student time on platform:* 35 minutes
The First Amendment	Learn why the First Amendment's five rights and freedoms are so vital to our democracy. Through case studies, students weigh in on Supreme Court decisions in which these protections were challenged.	➢ To name the five freedoms protected by the First Amendment. ➢ To explore and analyze six landmark First Amendment cases, judge them myself, and defend or criticize the Supreme Court's decision in each.	*Difficulty level:* 2 *Estimated student time on platform:* 70 minutes
Democracy's Watchdog	Learn about the historic watchdog role that a free press has played in the United States by exploring a collection of investigative reports spanning more than a century.	➢ To explore five iconic examples of investigative journalism and determine the impact of each. ➢ To explain the "watchdog role" of the press and describe its importance.	*Difficulty level:* 3 *Estimated student time on platform:* 70 minutes
Citizen Watchdog	Learn the ways that ordinary people can document and expose wrongdoing, including monitoring news coverage for breaches of journalism standards, by examining a series of case studies.	➢ To name several ways that ordinary people can play a watchdog role. ➢ To explain the details of four citizen watchdog case studies. ➢ To describe the relationship between citizen watchdogs and journalists.	*Difficulty level:* 3 *Estimated student time on platform:* 50 minutes
Press Freedoms Around the World	Explore the state of press freedoms in 22 nations, including videos of journalists in 10 countries recounting their reporting experiences.	➢ To explain what press freedom is and compare the ways that different countries protect — or restrict — it. ➢ To synthesize information from watchdog organizations that track how journalists are treated in different countries to create a profile for the press freedom level of a specific country.	*Difficulty level:* 4.5 *Estimated student time on platform:* Varies (~30 mins for Part 1)

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Branded Content	Learn the relationship among advertisers, the news media and the public to understand the rise of branded content and debate the ethical implications of new forms of marketing.	➤ To identify advertising content that has been labeled in some way and explain how it differs from traditional advertising. ➤ To 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.	*Difficulty level:* 4.5 *Estimated student time on platform:* 60 minutes
Introduction to Algorithms	Interact with a mock social media site and search engine to understand the information that algorithms gather about you to personalize what you see online.	➤ To explain how algorithms use data to personalize information for individuals. ➤ To describe the advantages and disadvantages of this technology.	*Difficulty level:* 1.5 *Estimated student time on platform:* 45 minutes
Understanding Bias	Develop a nuanced understanding of news media bias by learning about five types of bias and five ways it can manifest itself, as well as methods for minimizing it.	➤ To explain how bias in news coverage is a complex issue. ➤ To discuss the role people's own biases play in perceptions of bias in media, along with five types of bias and five forms these biases can take in news coverage.	*Difficulty level:* 4 *Estimated student time on platform:* 90 minutes
Misinformation	Learn to understand different types of misinformation and the ways that misinformation can damage democracy.	➤ To identify and differentiate between different types of misinformation. ➤ To explain why understanding and debunking misinformation matters. ➤ To evaluate and explain the possible consequences of misinformation. ➤ To understand the role of Russian disinformation during and after the 2016 presidential election.	*Difficulty level:* 2.5 *Estimated student time on platform:* 45 minutes
Arguments and Evidence	Experience the information aftermath of a fictional event as it unfolds on social media, learn about five common logical fallacies, then evaluate the evidence in several arguments.	➤ To differentiate between claims supported by actual evidence and sound reasoning and those which rely on faulty or inauthentic "evidence" and logical fallacies. ➤ To determine the overall strength of an argument.	*Difficulty level:* 3 *Estimated student time on platform:* 45 minutes
Practicing Quality Journalism	Learn the standards of quality journalism by playing the role of reporter in a game-like simulation of a breaking news event (in English or Spanish).	➤ To list and explain seven major standards of quality journalism. ➤ To apply those standards to differentiate between a credible news report and an unreliable news report.	*Difficulty level:* 2 *Estimated student time on platform:* 45 minutes
Conspiratorial Thinking	Learn to recognize conspiracy theories and explain what makes people vulnerable to conspiratorial thinking.	➤ I can explain what "conspiracy theories" are and why people find them appealing and compelling. ➤ I can describe what conspiratorial thinking is and the role it plays in making conspiracy theories engaging and compelling to people. ➤ I can recognize the key cognitive biases involved in conspiratorial thinking and identify the human needs that conspiracy theories address. ➤ I can demonstrate the social and political impact of conspiratorial thinking and conspiracy theories.	*Difficulty level:* 5 *Estimated student time on platform:* 75 minutes

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