Teaching news literacy with Checkology®

Help students tell the difference between fact and fiction.
Today's students are facing the most challenging information landscape in history.
Young people have a right to news literacy education

1. Information is the basis for civic literacy, agency and action.

2. Students are inheriting the largest and most complex information landscape in human history.

3. Not preparing them to successfully navigate and play a role in shaping this landscape is fundamentally unfair.
Consider these findings from a 2019 study of 3,446 students:

- **96%** didn’t consider why ties between a climate change website and the fossil fuel industry might lessen the site’s credibility.

- **68%** couldn’t tell the difference between news and “sponsored content” (advertising) on a news site’s homepage.

- **52%** believed that a grainy video of ballot-stuffing — actually shot in Russia — was “strong evidence” of voter fraud in the U.S.

**Source:** Stanford History Education Group's "Students' Civic Online Reasoning" report (2019)
What would a future look like where students are not able to discern fact from fiction?
What is news literacy?

“I learned that misinformation can be shown in many different ways and you should always check the credibility of a piece of media before you believe or share it.”

- Evan, 10th grade student
Determine the credibility of information as well as the credibility of the source of that information.
Teachable skills

- Fact-checking
- Zoning information
- Identifying misinformation
Use the standards of authoritative, fact-based journalism in deciding what to trust, what to share and what to act on.
Teachable skills

- Identifying the standards of quality journalism
- Understanding newsworthiness
- Understanding news media bias
Understand the importance of a free press and interact with news and other information in ways that promote engaged participation in civic life.
Teachable skills

- Identifying the rights protected by the First Amendment
- Understanding the journalist’s watchdog role
- Identifying the four main elements of press freedom
Checkology is a free tool to help educators teach news literacy. It provides engaging online learning experiences about today’s challenging information landscape.
Why educators love Checkology

“If I were in charge, Checkology would be part of a national mandated curriculum for sure!”

- Aaron Feldstein, 7th grade social studies teacher
Interactive lessons hosted by journalists, digital media experts

Filtering News and Information
- InfoZones
- What is News?
- Be the Editor

Navigating Today's Information Landscape
- Branded Content
- Introduction to Algorithms

Exercising Civic Freedoms
- The First Amendment
- Democracy's Watchdog
- Citizen Watchdogs
- Press Freedoms Around the World

How to Know What to Believe
- Understanding Bias
- Misinformation
- Arguments and Evidence
- Practicing Quality Journalism
- Conspiratorial Thinking
Preview: "InfoZones"

Preview: "Practicing Quality Journalism"
Customizable settings to suit remote, hybrid, and in-person classrooms.
Journalist visits to students through the Newsroom to Classroom program.
And more!

**Exercises**
Game-like activities that provide extra practice on lesson content.

**Challenges**
Quizzes that extend and expand on concepts and skills introduced in lessons.

**The Check Center**
A series of tools designed to build skills and habits of mind to detect and debunk misinformation.

**Resources**
Supplemental content, student creation tools, assessment links, transcripts and more for both teachers and students.
Students enjoy it, too!

Students in my classes enjoyed using Checkology.

Answered: 226   Skipped: 901
Questions?
Getting started on Checkology

“I can’t think of a more important time in history to have such an incredible resource available for students.”

- Mecca Sadler, High School English/EL Division Head
1. Go to checkology.org.

2. Register as an educator and connect with your school.

3. Create your account using email or a single sign-on option.
Once you have an educator account, you can begin...

Creating your first class.

Adding students.

Assigning a course.
Register, explore, and plan your first Checkology lesson!
For more info or support, please visit the:

checkology.zendesk.com/hc/en-us