Information Literacy Skills

Identifying Fake News

As anyone can publish information online, some people create **fake news**. It is **essential** to equip students with **skills to identify fake news**.

BREAKING NEWS

STRAGTEGIES

① Pay attention to URLs

Review URLs
- The most familiar URLs end with "**.com**," "**.net**," "**.gov**," "**.org**," "**.mil**," and "**.edu**."
- If they end with "**.lo**" or "**.co**", they are not legitimate news sources.

② Check "about us" section

Check the "about us" section
- Find who supports this source
- Find what is associated with it
- If they ask you to register first, chances are they are not trustable sources

③ Crosscheck the news

Be cautious of trusting news only from one source
- **Cross-check** the news from other sites
- If other credible news sources didn't report the news, you may need to **dig deeper**

④ Look for signs of low quality

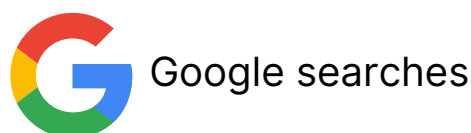**Be skeptical about the news if you see signs of low quality editing**
- Words in all caps
- Headlines with glaring grammatical errors
- Bold claims with no sources
- Sensationalist images

FAKE NEWS

Reflection to Evaluate Sources:

- Who made this?
- Who is the target audience?
- Who paid for this? Or, who gets paid if you click on this?
- Who might benefit or be harmed by this message?
- What is left out of this message that might be important?
- Is this credible (and what makes you think that)?

Common Tools to Fact Check:

- Google searches
- Facebook posts and news threads
- Twitter posts and news threads

References
- Common Sense Media. (n.d.). *3 online tools to sniff out fake news.* https://www.commonsensemedia.org/videos/3-online-tools-to-sniff-out-fake-news
- Filucci, S. (2021, March 5). *How to spot fake news (and teach kids to be media-savvy).* Common Sense Media. https://www.commonsensemedia.org/articles/how-to-spot-fake-news-and-teach-kids-to-be-media-savvy

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