

# Information Literacy Skills

## Helping Students Find Credible Online Sources

### Elementary School Classroom

#### 1 TEACH THE BASICS

- Teach students to identify goals of their searching
- Teach students the basics of keyword searching
- Teach how to use synonyms to search

#### 2 EXAMINE DOCTORED PHOTOS

- Help students differentiate authentic and fake images by showing them "wacky" photos
- Analyze photos on a magazine and discuss why each one is a real photo or not

#### 3 EVALUATE AGE-APPROPRIATE WEBSITES

- Let students visit some child-friendly websites, and ask them questions such as: "Can you read all the words on this website?" and "What do you see on the website?"
- Ask them if they think the information is true



#### Student-friendly Sources

*Time for Kids, News-O-Matic EDU, News2you, KidsPost, Newsela*



### Middle and High School Classroom

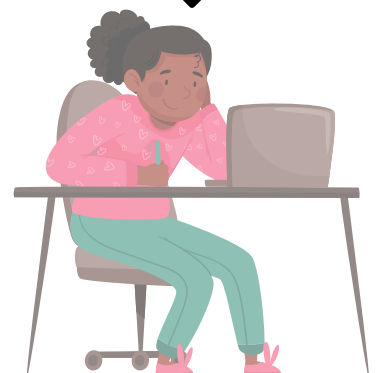
#### 1 TEACH ABOUT MEDIA BIAS

- Teach how to identify potential media bias on popular news sites
- Analyze news and report stories on websites and discuss how the content is biased or not
- Discuss the negative effects of biased news

#### 2 EVALUATE BASIC KEYWORD SEARCHES

- Evaluate information by thinking about different ways to ask the same question online
- Read similar information content from different websites.

**Quick tip:**  
Make use of **quotation marks**  
OR **hyphens** in  
Google searches



#### Reliable and Student-Friendly Sources:

NASA Visualization Explorer, The New York Times, NPR One, Science News for Students, PBS NewsHour Extra, Time Edge, The Learning Network



#### References:

- Common Sense Education. (n.d.). *Google search tricks for research*. <https://www.commonsense.org/education/videos/google-search-tricks-for-research>
- Common Sense Education. (n.d.). *Most reliable and credible sources for students*. <https://www.commonsense.org/education/top-picks/most-reliable-and-credible-sources-for-students>
- Hammer, B. (2021, May 12). *5 tips for helping students of all ages find credible online sources*. Edmentum Blog. <https://blog.edmentum.com/5-tips-helping-students-all-ages-find-credible-online-sources>
- Higgin, T. (2021, January 12). *News literacy resources for classrooms*. Common Sense Education. <https://www.commonsense.org/education/articles/news-literacy-resources-for-classrooms#Finding%20and%20Using%20Credible,%20Authoritative,%20and%20Diverse%20Sources>