# Fighting Fake News

## 1. Inquiry Task & Question

The web is full of questionable stuff, from rumors and misinformation to outright lies and so-called **"fake news."** How can you weed out the bad and find information you know is true? How and why does false information end up online in the first place?

You should always carefully **evaluate** the online sources you use for news, to decide which ones are **credible** so that you can trust you are getting the real facts. Is the site **biased**? Is there **corroboration** for any claims that are made?

**What criteria should you use to judge the trustworthiness and credibility of online news sources?**



**Select the image above to view the video Reading News Online**

Image Source: **Common Sense Education**

In this Slam Dunk, you will use multiple information sources to help you build an answer to the inquiry question:

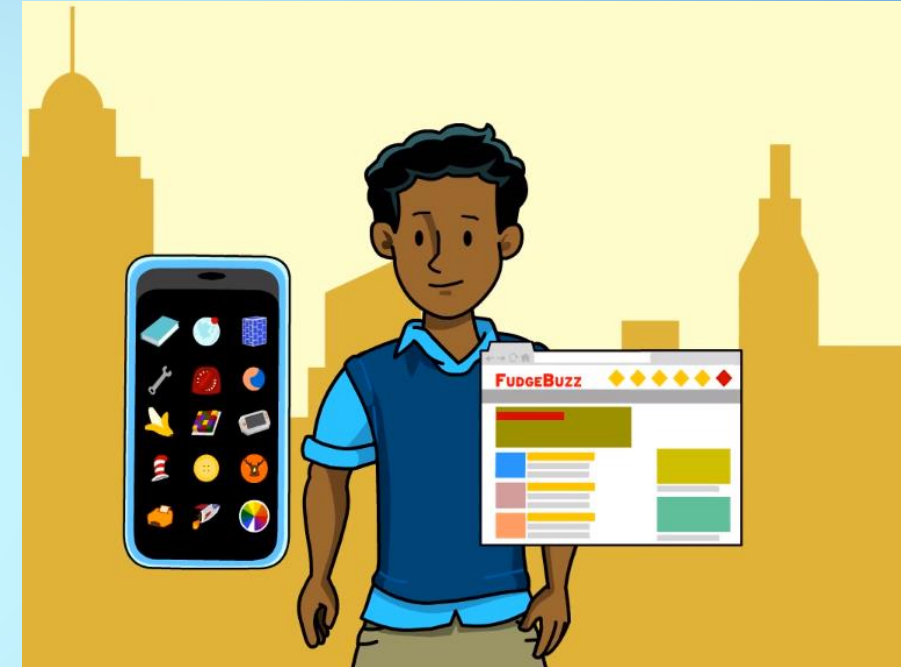## How do we know if the information we are consuming is credible?

# 2. Information Sources

**First, use these sources to build some background knowledge about evaluating internet sources.**

- Bias Detection

- The 5 W's of Website Evaluation

**Then, use these sources to complete the Student Activity on Slide 3.**

- The Case for Allowing 16 year olds to Vote

- Top 10 Reasons to Lower Voting Age

- Voting Age Lowered to Twelve in Handful of States

**Select the image above to view the BrainPop video *Media Literacy*.**

Image Source: **BrainPOP**

# 3. Student Activity

Use the checklist below to evaluate the credibility of the information sources on Slide 2 and complete the **News or Fake News?** activity.

## Internet Investigator Checklist

✓ **Read closely.** Does it make sense? Is it believable?

Identify the main idea by analyzing the text features and reading the text. Take note of anything that is surprising or hard to believe or that gives you a strong emotional reaction.

✓ **Analyze the source.** Does it come from a credible, unbiased source?

Find out information about the site owner and author by exploring the site and searching the web.

✓ **Look for corroboration.** Do other credible sources say the same thing?

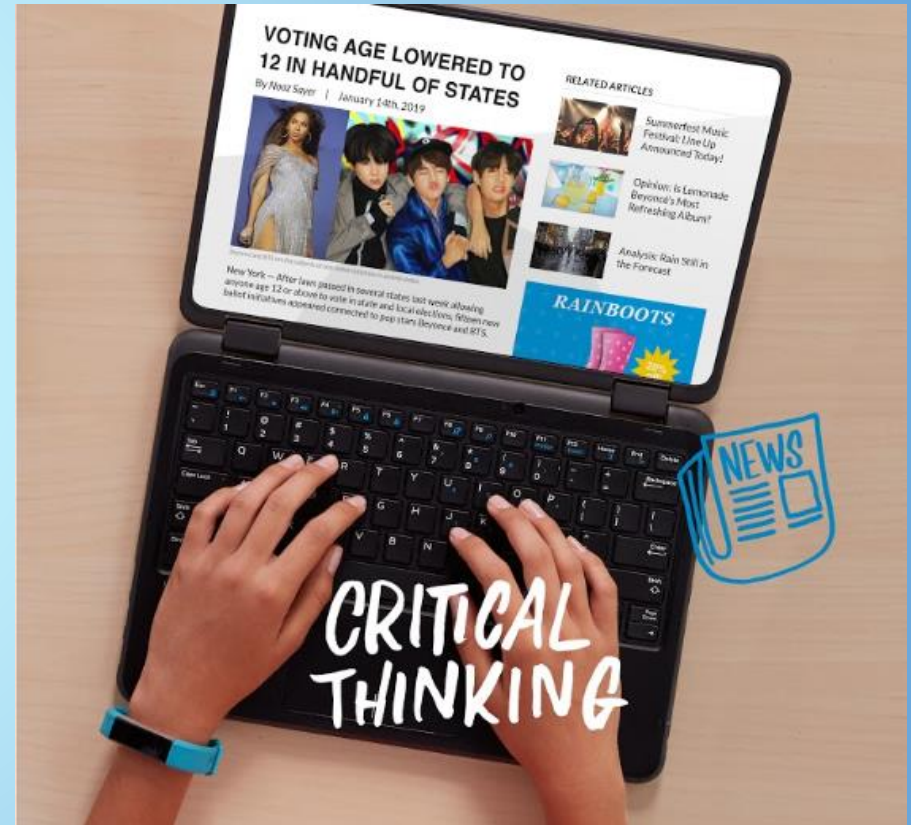See if the main idea and key points of the article are also reported by other credible sites.



Image Source: **Common Sense Education**

# 4. Assessment Activity

## How do we know if the information we are consuming is credible?

First, take the **Schoology Quiz** on **Fighting Fake News** as directed by your teacher or librarian.

Then, apply your learning to the **This Just In: Canceled Concert** activity.

**Before reacting to news, slow down and …**

**Check** **the source.**

- Is the news from a reliable news organization?
- If not, it may be questionable. See if other news organizations are reporting the same thing.

**Look** **to see if there's more information to come.**

- Does the article mention important details that aren't yet known?
- If so, it may be better to wait for the whole story to come out before deciding what to think or sharing the news with others.

**Analyze** **for bias.**

- Does the author or source organization have an agenda or motive for talking about the story?
- If so, look for a different source.



Image Source: **Common Sense Education**

# 5. Enrichment Activities

Image Source: **Common Sense Education**

With so much media and information coming at us through TV, phones, social media, and more, it's more important than ever for everyone to understand the basics of media literacy.

When you as teens and tweens can identify different types of news and media and the methods and meanings behind them, you are on your way to being a **critical thinker** and a **smart consumer**.

Here are some great family tips and activities to build upon what you have learned today. Please share these with your family!

**Help Kids Spot Fake News and Decode Media Messages – English | Spanish**

**News & Media Literacy Family Activity**

# 6. Teacher Resources

## Learning Standards Alignment

**Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy**
**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.7:** Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.9:** Draw evidence from literary or informational text to support analysis, reflection, and research.

**AASL Standards Framework for Learners**
**I. INQUIRE:** Build new knowledge by inquiring, thinking critically, identifying problems, and developing strategies for solving problems.
**Think:** Learners display curiosity and initiative by:
I.A.2 Recalling prior and background knowledge as context for new meaning.
**Create:** Learners engage with new knowledge by following a process that includes:
I.B.1 Using evidence to investigate questions. I.B.3 Generating products that illustrate learning.
**Share:** Learners adapt, communicate, and exchange learning products with others in a cycle that includes:
I.C.1 Interacting with content presented by others.
**Grow:** Learners participate in an ongoing inquiry-based process by:
I.D.2 Engaging in sustained inquiry.

**ISTE Standards for Students**
**2. Digital Citizen:** Students recognize the rights, responsibilities and opportunities of living, learning and working in an interconnected digital world, and they act and model in ways that are safe, legal and ethical.

## Digital Citizenship: Grade 7

**Content Integration:** Social Studies, AVID, Science, ELA, or Health.

**Objective:** Students will synthesize information from multiple information sources in order to apply strategies for evaluating the credibility of news sources.

**Time Frame:** One 90 - minute class period

**Notes to the teacher:**
- This lesson and the **Schoology Quiz** are **REQUIRED for all students in Grade 7.**
- Collaborate with your school library media specialist to plan and implement this lesson.
- Have students use learning supports provided in BCPS Digital Content found in the Apps Portal. Refer to Digital Content Snapshot/Support pages as needed.
- Provide students with login information as needed to authenticate BCPS Digital Content. Login information is available on the **BCPS Digital Content** page found via the Apps Portal
- Consider sharing Family Resources relevant to this topic with students' families: 4 Great Fact Checking Sites for Tweens 7 Teens