**Lesson Title:** News Literacy

**Description of the lesson:** Can you determine what’s true or false on your social media feeds? What about a website you stumbled upon with an eye grabbing headline? News literacy is more important than ever as we dissect information that has flooded our computer and phone screens. In the following lesson, you’ll work through some example to help you identify and understand the importance of news literacy – and the tools to help you verify information.

**Objectives*by the end of this lessons, students will be able to ..***

* Understand the concept and importance of news literacy
* Identify tools necessary to make informed decisions on news choice

**Procedures:**

Before beginning, read the following:

* Read Blur’s Chapter 3: The Way of Skeptical Knowing
* [Even News Sites Fall for Fake News](http://ajr.org/2015/04/03/news-sites-fall-for-fake-news/)
* [Verifying photos and videos](https://firstdraftnews.org/are-you-a-journalist-download-this-free-guide-for-verifying-photos-and-videos/)
* [Fake news. It’s complicated.](https://firstdraftnews.org/fake-news-complicated/?utm_content=buffer4c60f&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer)
* [Checkology,org](https://checkology.org/) Read, view the following lessons:
  + [Filtering News and Information](https://checkology.org/lessons/teacher/16/elements)
  + [Exercising Civic Freedoms](https://checkology.org/lessons/teacher/4/elements)
* [The Pyramid of Journalism Competence: what journalists need to know](https://www.poynter.org/news/pyramid-journalism-competence-what-journalists-need-know)

Activity #1

* Follow the activity presented by Checkology.org. This activity will move you through identifying what is fact and what are rumors on the web. Near the end, you will be asked the following question:
  + In your opinion, if a rumor is debunked (proven to be untrue), can it still be dangerous?
  + Answer and save the above question in a Word document with your response. Use examples to support your answer.

Activity #2

* Find a story or piece of information that you would like to fact-check. Using the following websites below, explain if you were able to debunk or fact-check your inquiry.
  + FactCheck.org
  + Snopes.com
  + PolitiFact.com

Activity #3

* Write a position piece on what role news literacy should play in education and day-to-day life.
  + What is its importance?
  + Can we learn to identify what’s real and what’s is not?
    - How? What tools are available?
  + How does civic literacy relate?
    - What is the role of citizens in an information-overload society? How can we be better consumers of the information presented on multiple platforms, while using our civic knowledge to make more informed decisions?