

Students Are Being Duped by Fake News



Teens spend an average of **9.4 hours a day** accessing digital media.¹

By Age 18, **88%** of young adults regularly get their news from social media.²



A recent Stanford University study involving 7,800 students from middle school through college found that the overwhelming majority could not tell the difference between credible content online and “fake news.”



8 in 10 middle school students had trouble distinguishing sponsored content from real news.³



4 in 10 high schoolers were swayed by a powerful photograph even if the story was not from a reliable source.⁴



9 in 10 college students were unable to recognize a lobbying group posing as a reputable news site.⁵



As a parent, what can I do to ensure my child can identify fake news?

- 1** Instill a **healthy skepticism** about all forms of media starting at an early age
- 2** Pick up on children's interests and **help them find and evaluate sources** about this topic to evaluate their credibility
- 3** Ask children about what they're reading online; **let them see you reading news from a variety of sources**



As a teacher, how can I incorporate media literacy in my classroom?

- Ask students questions that will **help them develop critical thinking skills**
- Demonstrate how to **recognize and research the source** of an article or online study
- Encourage students to **get information from more than one place** and compare
- Use a number of **different types of media in the classroom** including print



How Learning.com Can Help

Learning.com offers a complete digital literacy curriculum that helps prepare students with the skills they need to be successful in school and the world. Our Ethical Use of Digital Resources and our Sourcing & Ethics lessons help students learn about information validity and sourcing for reliability, and develop online research, critical thinking, and other media literacy skills.

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EXCEL IN A DIGITAL WORLD

Sources:

¹ <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/11/teenagers-spending-too-much-time-online-no-need-to-worry/>

² <https://www.wsj.com/articles/most-students-dont-know-when-news-is-fake-stanford-study-finds-1479752576>

³ <https://shgq.stanford.edu/upload/V3LessonPlans/Executive%20Summary%2011.21.16.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/most-students-dont-know-when-news-is-fake-stanford-study-finds-1479752576>

⁵ <http://mashable.com/2016/11/22/stanford-fake-news-study/#m.effDoiaOqm>