



**Grades
4 - 6**



Junior Grades Lesson 5 Handout

The Truth Online

Common Categories of Online Lies

- **Misinformation:** Online information, usually in the form of articles, videos or social media posts that try to make kids think they're true or factual pieces of information, but are actually fake and meant to spread lies or cause a reaction.
- **Harmful Internet challenges:** Usually, these challenges encourage kids to do silly or funny things, like dance moves or try a super spicy hot sauce; however, sometimes these challenges can try to scare people or even attempt to get them to hurt themselves.
- **Fake online contests:** Contests can be very tempting, as they often promise some sort of reward, such as money or free items for doing something as simple as answering a question or filling out a form. However, this can be a quick way for unknown people or companies to get kids' personal or private information.

Fact-checking 101

Develop your critical thinking skills! Ask the following questions to help guide your thinking regarding the information you come across online:

- Is this too good, or too bad, to be true?
- Does it say bad things about people or groups of people?
- Is it weird, scary or gross?
- Have you heard it before from anywhere else? Have your friends talked about it? Have you learned about it at school? Is this just a rumour?
- Can you find it anywhere else online? Have you seen it anywhere offline, like on television or radio?

Your Turn! Be an Online Detective

Your task is to find one article online and decide whether it's true or a lie:

I believe the post _____ is true / a lie, because:
(circle one)

1.

2.

3.

Success Criteria

- ☐ I can use critical thinking skills to recognize false information online.