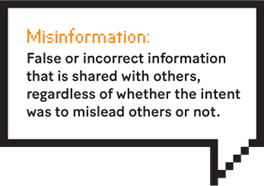
Intermediate Grades

Lesson 6 Handout

Research Deep Dive:  
Information Verification



Implications of Sharing False Information

There can be implications or consequences for sharing false information, misinformation, or disinformation online, including:

* **Damage to credibility:** You may lose personal or professional credibility if it becomes clear that you lack the skill to detect misinformation or verify the authenticity of content, before sharing it.
* **Compromised reputation:** If you share controversial or offensive content, people may feel that you share the same opinions and views.
* **Academic penalty:** Quoting or citing incorrect information may result in loss of marks and/or poor grades.
* **Loss of employment:** Believing mistaken information can lead to poor decisions; and if that information is controversial or hateful, it may damage your professional reputation, result in job loss, or become a barrier to employment.
* **Negative impact on self-esteem:** Constantly seeing curated social media posts can make you feel inadequate about your own life when you’re really only seeing the glorified version the creator wants you to see.

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 this reinforce stereotypes about people or groups?
* Does it seem to be telling me what I want to hear, or what I already believe or feel?
* Does the body of the story match the headline?
* When was the story published? Is it new?
* If it’s a few years old, why is it circulating now?
* Does the story have a named writer or producer?
* Have I heard of the organization that published it before?
* Does this organization have reporters and writers who can be found online or on social media?   
  Do their names or bios appear on the organization’s website?
* What is the domain name (or web address) of the website?
* Have I heard of it before? Can I look it up?
* Does it sound like the address of a similar website with a different ending?
* Can I find another source that confirms this information? Can I find one that counters it?

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. |