Digital Literacy: Opportunities and Challenges for Children, Adolescents and Professionals

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Adolescents and Fake News

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https://pq-static-content.proquest.com/collateral/media2/documents/k12_catalog.pdf

Using the ProQuest Guided Research Worksheet with Adolescents Who Struggle with Language

Steps Listed	Scaffolding Suggestions
1. Do a Visual Assessment Assess the overall design. Fake news sites often look amateurish, have lots of annoying ads, and use altered or stolen images.	• Note the look of the site. • Describe visual features with appropriate words. • Define the features than make an ad annoying • Locate original source of an image in order to check its authenticity.
Overall, does the news article and website seem high quality?	• List positive and negatives. • Draw a conclusion.
2. Identify the News Outlet The Wall Street Journal and CNN are examples of news outlets. If you haven't heard of the news outlet, search online for more information.	• Identify names of credible news outlets in your country. • Give students experiences with those outlets.
Is the news outlet well known, well respected, and trustworthy?	• Identify evidence of familiarlty, respect and trustworthiness. (Look to journalists' organizations.)
3. Check the Web Domain Many fake news URLs look odd or end with ".com.co" or ".lo" (e.g., abcnews.com.co) to mimic legitimate news sites.	• Locate urls on a web page. • Analyze features of the address, looking for .co or .lo at the end.
Does the URL seem legitimate?	• List evidence for legitimacy.
4. Check the "About Us" Section Trustworthy news outlets usually include detailed background information, policy statements, and email contacts in the "About/About Us" section.	• List the kinds of details provided. • Identify what you would like to know but could not find.
Does the site provide detailed background information and contacts?	• Summarize the kinds of details provided and decide if it is sufficient. (Based on legitimate sites analyzed.)
5. Identify the Author Fake news articles often don't include author names. If included, search the author's name online to see if he or she is well known and respected.	• State the author's name. • Look up the author on the Internet to see what other things he or she has written or said. • Find articles written about the author.
Does the article have a trusted author?	• Based on what you found, say whether this is a trusted author.
6. Identify the Central Message Read the article carefully. Fake news articles often push one viewpoint, have an angry tone, or make outrageous claims.	• List the important details in this article. • Synthesize the information in the article and report the major message the author is trying to communicate. • Identify the author's viewpoint. Is he trying to sell you on an idea? Is he qualified to do that? • List words that communicate emotion. • Identify any claim that seems ridiculous.
Does the article seem fair, balanced, and reasonable?	• Analyze the author's believability. Are his arguments sound? Does he back up his claims?
7. Assess Spelling, Grammar, and Punctuation	• Scan for CAPS and !!!!!! • Use spellcheck to review words

If the article has misspelled words, words in ALL CAPS, poor grammar, or lots of "!!!!," it's probably unreliable.	• Identify poor grammar in examples
Does the article have proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation?	• Count number of errors or problems
8. Analyze Sources and Quotes Consider the article's sources and who is quoted. Fake news articles often cite anonymous sources, unreliable sources, or no sources at all.	• List names of people quoted. (No sources= red flag) • Look up names of sources on the Internet. Who are they? What are their credentials? Are credentials appropriate for the topic? What else have they said?
Does the article include and identify reliable sources?	• Summarize source information.
9. Find Other Articles Search the internet for more articles on the same topic. If you can't find any, chances are the story is fake.	• Identify different ways to search for articles on the internet (search terms).
Are there multiple articles by other news outlets on this topic?	• Count number of other articles found. • State whether the content was similar or not?
10. Turn to Fact Checkers FactCheck.org, Snopes.com, PolitiFact.com are widely trusted fact-checking websites.	• Select a fact checking source. • Evaluate what the source says about the information you are assessing. • Separate elements that are factual from those that are fake within the same source.
Do the fact checkers say the news story is true?	• Say whether the fact checker thinks the story is factual as a whole. Are some parts true?
Based on your research, do you think the article is more likely to be true or false? Explain.	• Summarize information from the 10 factors. • Draw a conclusion about the article.

Information Literacy Vocabulary -Examples

amateurish
anonymous
authentic/authenticity
arguments
believability
claims
credentials
credible/credibility
disinformation
hoax

familiarity
legitimate/legitimacy
mimic
outlet
outrageous
trustworthy/trustworthiness
unreliable
synthesize
viewpoint
widely

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