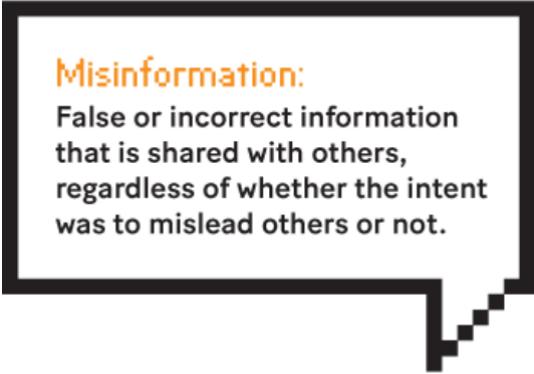




Intermediate Grades Lesson 6 Handout

Research Deep Dive: Information Verification



Misinformation:

False or incorrect information that is shared with others, regardless of whether the intent was to mislead others or not.

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.