

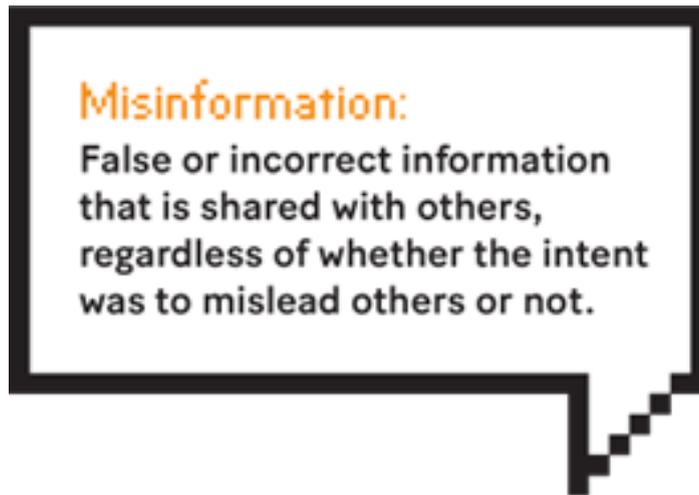


**Grades
7-8**



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.