

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

## Navigating the World of Online (Mis)Information

### Lesson 6: Pay Attention To How The News Makes You Feel Activity - Headlines and Our Reactions

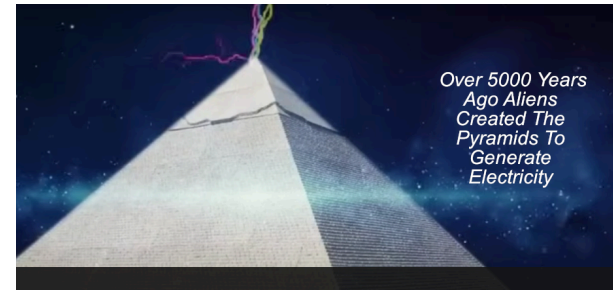
#### Online misinformation is designed to get a reaction

When browsing online it's easy to click on something that catches our interest without giving it much thought.

The lure of a catchy headline is hard to resist.

For example, a news headline claiming aliens created the pyramids to generate electricity captured the interest of students.

The story had been made using AI to look and sound believable, and students were convinced it was true. They were very surprised to learn it was actually **fake**.



One of the best ways for creators of online misinformation to get viewers is to use a catchy headline. The hope is that it will cause us to react in some way.

Reactions can be linked to feelings and below are some feelings people can experience. The purpose for providing these is to help identify why a headline caught our interest and if a feeling has been generated. It is not important what the feeling is, it is just important to notice when we are having a feeling.

| ENJOYMENT    | SADNESS      | FEAR      | ANGER      | DISGUST       |
|--------------|--------------|-----------|------------|---------------|
| Happiness    | Lonely       | Worried   | Annoyed    | Dislike       |
| Love         | Heartbroken  | Doubtful  | Frustrated | Loathing      |
| Relief       | Gloomy       | Nervous   | Peeved     | Disapproving  |
| Contentment  | Disappointed | Anxious   | Contrary   | Offended      |
| Amusement    | Hopeless     | Terrified | Infuriated | Horried       |
| Joy          | Grieved      | Panicked  | Irritated  | Uncomfortable |
| Pride        | Unhappy      | Horried   | Mad        | Nauseated     |
| Excitement   | Lost         | Desperate | Cheated    | Disturbed     |
| Peace        | Troubled     | Confused  | Vengeful   | Withdrawn     |
| Surprise     | Miserable    | Stressed  | Insulted   | Aversion      |
| Satisfaction |              | Shocked   |            |               |



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Below are a number of news article headlines for you to decide which catches your attention and why. Often something that makes us stop a moment has caused us to react in some way. It might be funny, shocking, worrying, etc. As you look at each headline consider:

- Does the topic cause a reaction in some way?
- Which part of the headline grabbed your attention? Are there strong words used in the headline that drew your attention?
- Did the wording create an emotional response? Use the list above to help you identify your emotional reaction.
- Is there something you experienced recently that makes this meaningful to you?
- Did this seem impressive to share with others?

| HEADLINE ANALYSIS Look at each headline and identify any words or phrases that catch your attention (highlight, circle, underline, etc.). |
|---|
| Better Health Monitoring or Better Surveillance? U.S. Spy Agencies Launch 'Smart Clothing'  |
| Mosquitoes—Once Feared for Spreading Disease—Now Genetically Modified to Fight Viruses  |
| Does Canadian Democracy Still Exist? Some Students Say 'No'   |
| Emotional Celebrity Discusses Her Struggles with Media Attention on Her Appearance, Beauty  |
| Allegations of Sexual Misconduct Amongst Pro Hockey Players Continue to Grow  |
| As Technology Improves, What Comes Next for AI-fuelled deepfakes and Misinformation?  |
| The Federal Government Needs to Take More Steps to Protect Canadians from 'Forever Chemicals' in our Food and Clothing                    |
| Dream Job or PR Stunt? Here's How You Can Make \$100k+ Writing About Your Fave Musicians  |
| Canadian Youth Are Spending More Time Online Than Ever Before. Experts Ask, What Are the Harms?   |
| Turkish Government Questions Western Nation's Lack of Support in Wake of Natural Disaster   |
| Scientists Say Earth Has Already Passed 'Point of No Return' With Climate Change  |
| 16-Year-Old Video Game Streamer Becomes Millionaire in a Matter of Months on Twitch   |
| With Tensions Growing Between China and Canada, Questions Rise Over Whether Canadians Should Trust Apps Like TikTok                       |
| Missing Dog Found After 5 Years, but Parents Angry The Pet was Found  |



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Choose two titles from the list of headlines that catch your attention and complete the activity below.

|  |
|--|
| HEADLINE title.  |
| Explain ways the headline catches your attention. Consider keywords and your emotional response.   |
| Would you be likely to click on this news post because of the title? Explain why or why not. Consider how you might protect yourself from being lured into consuming misinformation. |

|   |
|---|
| HEADLINE title.   |
| Explain ways the headline catches your attention. Consider keywords and your emotional response.  |
| Would you be likely to click on this news post? Explain why or why not. Consider how you might protect yourself from being lured into consuming misinformation. |

Pair up and discuss with another partner or group.



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