

IS303 Script

NARRATION: Welcome to the Herbert S. Eisenberg Intermediate School 303. The 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who attend IS 303 are acquiring crucial critical thinking skills -- and learning how to find reliable, trustworthy information important to them – by studying an emerging academic discipline called *News Literacy*. Along the way, they're also learning how to become savvy news consumers -- and more informed citizens.

SAMIL (F1): News Literacy means going on the Internet and deconstructing a source or current event to form an opinion. Once you form an opinion, you're going to go on the internet and look it up and back it up. And then you're going to tell your classmates about it and you're going to evaluate it.

The teachers here employ a variety of techniques and tools culled from the Center for News Literacy at Stony Brook University – such as a 48 hour ‘news blackout’ and the use of memorable acronyms -- to help middle schoolers embrace key News Literacy concepts. One key example: IMVAIN.

BRIANNE (F1): IMVAIN helps me a lot when we're reading passages because it's organized...and, can I say the letters of it? I=independent, m=multiple sources, v=verification or verified, the A means authoritative...

SOLANO (F2-2): When students use something with acronyms they always remember it//When they use it, it allows them to look at the bigger picture, and that's what we want them to do to become better critical thinkers.

NARRATION: These middleschoolers say that studying News Literacy has changed their lives in some profound ways.

BRIANNE (F3): News changed my life because now that I'm in News Literacy, I want to learn more about the news. I know now there is interesting stuff that I want to learn about and before I really didn't care about news.

SAMIL (F2 -- in pieces): ~~I love this subject!~~ Even if it's not in the classroom, if you find something interesting, you *have* to look it up, because if you just look at one source, you're not going to get all the details you need

IBAD (F1): If it's not reliable, then what's the point? You need to know what's really going on, and you need to know the truth. It's your right as a basic human, because knowing the truth, it opens our minds...

NICOLE (F2) : To make the internet valuable, then make sure it is reliable!