

## News and Media Literacy



When many of today's parents were growing up, they were taught values and beliefs by the people around them. Parents. Teachers. Grandparents. Neighbors. Today, kids learn an incredible amount from the media environment they are growing up in. Media impacts our kids' lives today in almost every way. Whether they are interacting with friends on social media, clicking on advertising to see the latest trend, watching their favorite videos on YouTube or reading a book, media influences the way kids live their lives and how they see the world.

It would be hard enough if media literacy was just a matter of figuring out which websites are credible and which are not, or distinguishing between fact and opinion, but the reality is, it is rare for something to be completely true or completely false. We work to teach our students how to be critical consumers of information, to build skills to analyze any information, and use what they know to help them better understand the world. The good news is, this is a skill that can be easily applied to both digital and analog literacy, and helping students become critical consumers of information will help them become better readers and even help them better digest hard or possibly scary information, like what they see on the news.

In school, we support these skills through both digital citizenship work and in our reading, writing and social studies classrooms. Here are some ways you can support building these skills at home:

[What is Media Literacy and Why is it Important?](#)

**Here are more resources to explore:**

[K-5 News and Media Literacy Family Tip Sheet](#)

[3rd-5th grade Family Activity - News and Media Literacy](#)

[6-12th Grade News and Media Literacy Family Tip Sheet](#)