

License: This guide is provided to paying members for personal use only. You may print it for yourself or your household. Public redistribution, posting online, or commercial use is not permitted without written permission from Simple Virtues LLC d/b/a Don't Get Bunked!

Curated links and classroom-ready resources for teaching verification, lateral reading*, and critical consumption.

* Open new tabs and check what trustworthy, independent sources say about the site, author, and claim.


Use this page when you need lesson plans, curricula, and practical verification tools that help learners think clearly and check claims fast.

Media Literacy Curricula & Programs


News Literacy Project — Checkology® virtual classroom with scaffolded lessons on news, bias, and misinformation.

 <https://checkology.org/> ↗

Stanford History Education Group — Civic Online Reasoning (COR): free lessons & assessments for evaluating online information.

 <https://cor.inquirygroup.org/> ↗

NAMLE — The National Association for Media Literacy Education: national hub for ML education, resources, and events.

 <https://namle.org/> ↗

Common Sense Education — K-12 Digital Citizenship curriculum: media balance, clickbait, privacy, and information literacy.

 <https://www.commonsense.org/education/digital-citizenship> ↗

UNESCO — Media & Information Literacy frameworks and global initiatives for critical engagement with information.

 <https://www.unesco.org/en/media-information-literacy> ↗

Verification & Classroom Tools

Google Fact Check Explorer — search published fact checks across outlets; useful for modeling lateral reading.

 <https://toolbox.google.com/factcheck/> ↗

InVID — browser toolkit for keyframes, reverse image lookups, and metadata checks on visuals.

 <https://www.invid-project.eu/tools-and-services/invid-verification-plugin/> ↗

Google Images — reverse image search by camera/upload to find sources, earlier uses, and context.

 <https://images.google.com/> ↗

Wayback Machine — capture/look up prior versions of pages to check provenance and claim timelines.

 <https://web.archive.org/> ↗

SIFT (The Four Moves) — Mike Caulfield's lightweight method: Stop, Investigate the source, Find better coverage, Trace to the origin.

 <https://guides.lib.uchicago.edu/c.php?g=1241077&p=9082322> ↗

Sam's Tips

Start with lateral reading — leave the page and see what reliable sources say about it.


Distinguish bias from unreliability: a viewpoint isn't a red flag by itself — method and evidence are.


Use first appearance checks (Wayback + reverse image) to catch recycled or AI-manipulated visuals.



Model claim-first verification in class: define the claim, list checks, then decide confidence.


Teach SIFT* early and practice often; it's short, sticky, and effective.

* Stop, Investigate, Find, and Trace

 **Stop** Pause before you share or believe. Ask: *What's the claim? Who's behind it?*

 **Investigate the source** Look up the site/author/org in a new tab. What do *reliable* sources say about them?

 **Find better coverage** Search for **independent, high-quality** reporting/fact checks on the same claim. Prefer outlets with strong editorial standards or  IFCN-Verified fact-checkers.

 **Trace claims/quotes/media to the origin** Follow links to the **original study, dataset, or full video**. Check dates, context, and whether the source actually supports the claim.

Quick example:

A viral post says a supplement “reverses Alzheimer’s in 30 days.”

Stop (sounds extraordinary).

Investigate the site (reputation? conflicts?).

Find better coverage (search news + fact checks; look for Cochrane/NIH/FDA references).

Trace to the cited study (sample size? peer review? replication?).