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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

Media Bias/Fact Check – Rates the credibility and political bias of news sources.

 <https://mediabiasfactcheck.com> 

AllSides – Compares how different news outlets cover the same story across perspectives.

 <https://www.allsides.com> 

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

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

For Families and Educators – Resources for Teaching Media Literacy to Others

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


 <https://checkology.org> 

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



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

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 (SIFT)

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.

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:

“This supplement reverses Alzheimer’s in 30 days.” Extraordinary claims require strong evidence and independent verification.