

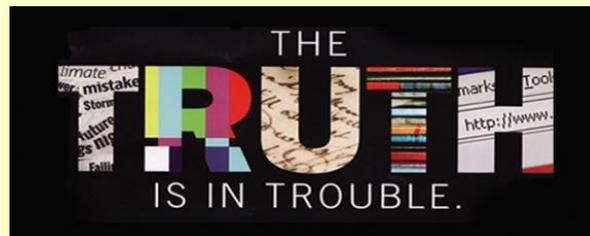


# TECH BYTES



Orange Board of Education

February 2017/013



## News Literacy: Critical-Thinking Skills for the 21st Century

Never before has the need for News Literacy been more urgent. As news consumers are bombarded with a constant stream of fake news, propaganda, hoaxes, rumors, satire, and advertising – that often masquerade as credible journalism – it is becoming more and more difficult to distinguish fact from fiction. While the public's faith in the news media erodes, purveyors of misinformation have helped give rise to troubling cultural trends and alarming political movements.

The flood of fake news, propaganda, rumors, and advertising that often masquerade as news has made it harder than ever to separate fact from fiction. News Literacy can help students of all ages recognize the differences between fact and rumor, news and advertising, news and opinion, and bias and fairness.

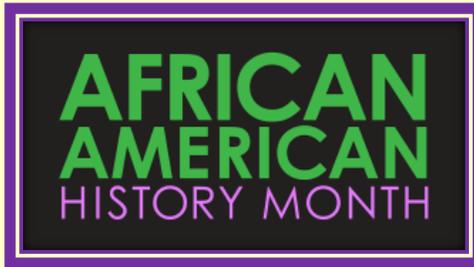
How can you find reliable information in a flood of fake news, propaganda and advertising all dressed up to look like real journalism? How can modern societies thrive if their citizens are misinformed about topics as crucial as public health and safety?

The Center for News Literacy at Stony Brook University's School of Journalism is offering an online version of its news literacy curriculum that more than 15,000 university students and media educators in ten countries have taken over the last decade.

The six-week course will help the learner develop their critical thinking skills to enable them to better identify reliable information in news reports and to become better informed about the world in which we live. The course will discuss the key elements of journalism from the viewpoint of the news audience.

### **Making Sense of the News: News Literacy Lessons for Digital Citizens**

<https://www.coursera.org/learn/news-literacy>



207 Theme: The Crisis in Black Education

<https://asalh100.org/future-themes/>

The theme for 2017 focuses on the crucial role of education in the history of African Americans. ASALH's founder Carter G. Woodson once wrote that "if you teach the Negro that he has accomplished as much good as any other race he will aspire to equality and justice without regard to race." Woodson understood well the implications associated with the denial of access to knowledge, and he called attention to the crisis that resulted from persistently imposed racial barriers to equal education. The crisis in black education first began in the days of slavery when it was unlawful for slaves to learn to read and write. In pre-Civil War northern cities, free blacks were forced as children to walk long distances past white schools on their way to the one school relegated solely to them. Whether by laws, policies, or practices, racially separated schools remained the norm in America from the late nineteenth century well into our own time. Addressing the crisis in black education should be considered one of the most important goals in America's past, present, and future.

### African American History Resources

Anti-Defamation League

<http://www.adl.org/education-outreach/lesson-plans/c/10-ideas-for-teaching-black-history.html#.WlzCldcrKM8>

Scholastic

<http://tinyurl.com/jj5p568>

The Teacher's Corner

<https://seasonal.theteacherscorner.net/black-history-month/>

Teachervision

<https://www.teachervision.com/holidays/black-history-month>

Newseum

<https://newseumed.org/idea/mlk-black-history-month-resources/>



<https://kids.usa.gov/teachers/calendar/february/index.shtml>

## FREE WEBINAR



### **Media Literacy: A Crash Course in 60 Minutes**

**Wednesday, February 22, 2017 @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm EST**

Let's face it. Fake media is a hot topic in, ahem, the media. But it is also a hot topic in education. In November 2016, the Stanford History Education Group (SHEG) published *Evaluating Information: The Cornerstone of Civic Online Reasoning*, a study that revealed concerning results. Because students increasingly turn to online news to meet their research needs, it is more important than ever for educators to help them separate truth from fiction. In this session, USA TODAY Reporter Greg Toppo will join Michelle Luhtala, Library Department Chair, New Canaan High School, CT to discuss shifting trends in the news business and what teachers can do to help their learners sift through the information pool to find trustworthy journalism. This webinar will benefit librarians.

<http://www.anymeeting.com/PIID=EC58D789864639>



## Girls Who Code

This is a FREE computer science education program designed for girls in 6th-12th grade across the United States. Any school can host a club to support female coders. The facilitator does not have to have a technical background. The program offers a technical training and support pilot programs to facilitate the club.

To sponsor a club all you need are computers with Internet connection, space to host the club, and a faculty member who will be responsible for leading the club and communicating with Girls Who Code.

For more information and to apply, go to this website

<https://girlswhocodeclubs.fluidreview.com/>

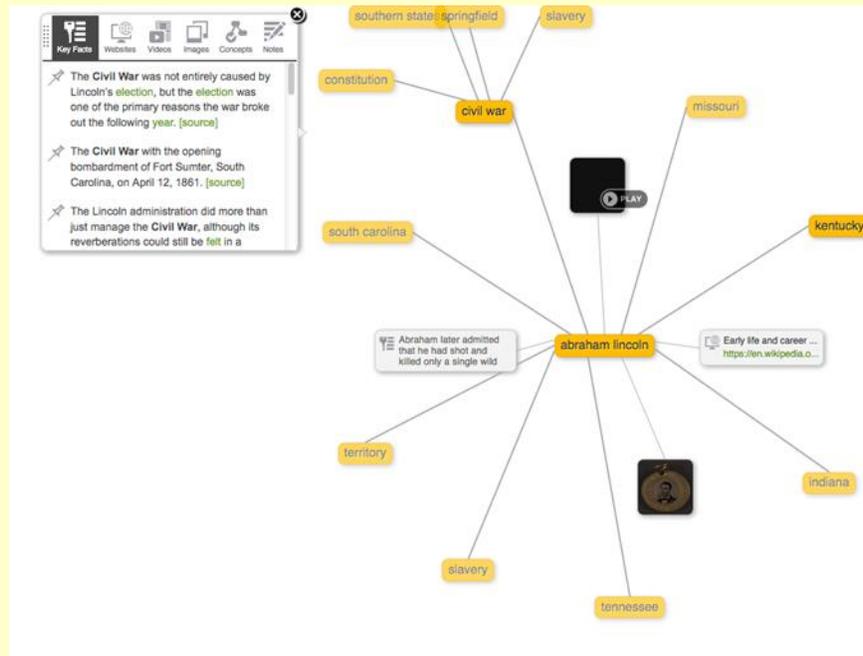


<http://www.instagrok.com/>

InstaGrok is an innovative educational search engine that combines sophisticated semantic technology with an interactive user interface to make learning more engaging, personalized and fun for everyone. It allows users to research any topic with an interactive concept map that can be customized and shared with others. Use InstaGrok to engage students in self-directed learning, foster their curiosity, and help them develop critical research and digital literacy skills. The research functionality is 100% free, and no registration is required.

Key Facts: show important facts about any topic (with links to the original content pages).

An interactive visual interface allows anyone to quickly grasp important concepts, key facts and relationships. Integrated journals allow easy note-taking or writing of research reports.



No Bullying

<https://nobullying.com/internet-safety-tips-everyone-should-consider/>



Chromebook Tutorial - Beginner to Advanced!  
<https://www.thinglink.com/scene/563150113321517058>



a platform  
for good

When it comes to technology, parents may seem a little in the dark; Millennials and the generations to follow them were born with devices in their hands and it may seem like parents can never catch up.

But like all things, breaking down technology and its potential for good (and bad) is as easy as understanding how the apps or security settings work and making them customized to fit you and your family agenda. Sit down with your kids, figure out what they're getting up to on their devices, and then get to learning—it's much easier than it looks.

<http://aplatformforgood.org/teaching-parents-tech/>



<https://www.stemfinity.com/Free-STEM-Education-Resources>



## 10 Things Every Teacher Should Know How To Do With Google Docs

<http://www.edudemic.com/10-things-every-teacher-know-google-docs/>

Google Docs is a powerful word processing tool that many schools have adopted. As it's similar to Microsoft Word and other word processing tools, most of its features are intuitive to use. However, in addition to completing many of the functions of a traditional word processor, Google Docs provides even more capabilities that can be invaluable to educators.



<http://nj.pbslearningmedia.org/>



# TECHNOLOGY HUMOR

Copyright 2007 by Randy Glasbergen.  
www.glasbergen.com



**“My wife wants to know if you can replace my burps with an assortment of nice ringtones?”**

Copyright 2007 by Randy Glasbergen.  
www.glasbergen.com



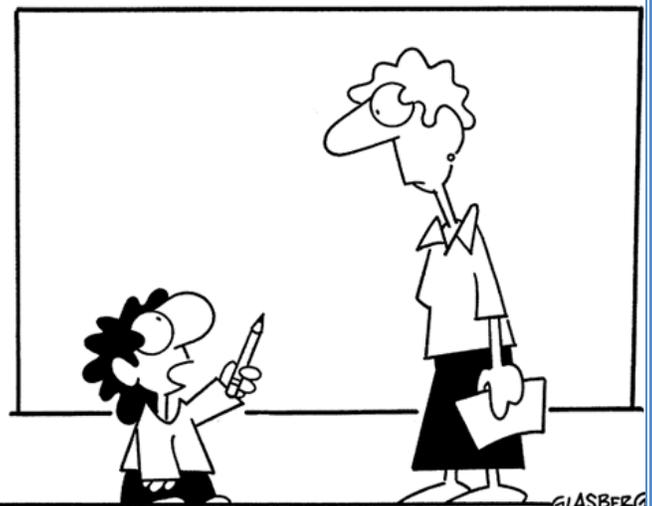
**“Some men are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them by a friend who knows how to use Wikipedia.”**

Copyright 2006 by Randy Glasbergen.  
www.glasbergen.com



**“Tonight’s news broadcast is available in high-definition. Some political views expressed on this program may still appear fuzzy and out of focus.”**

Copyright 2007 by Randy Glasbergen. www.glasbergen.com



**“How do you expect me to write with this? It doesn’t even have a USB port for a keyboard!”**