

# Class: Contemporary Issues

## Lesson # 4

Date: 4/9

Learning Target: I will be able to use fact-checking measures on evaluating the news.



**Fact: Bears eat Beets.**

Bears. Beets. Battlestar Galactica.

# Warm Up

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Watch the following video and play along with the contestants. Will Smith is reading off three “facts” about himself. However, one of them is a lie (Two Truths and a Lie game). Can you spot out the lie? As you watch, think about what questions you would ask him to determine which statement was a lie.

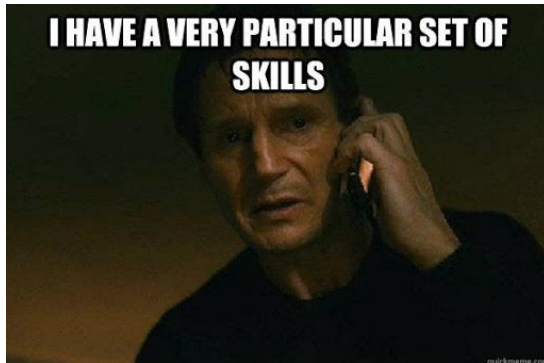


# Lesson Activity

Fact => Known or proven to be true

False => Incorrect, not true

Determining between fact and fiction can be challenging in the digital age. But, developing a certain set of fact checking skills can help you determine between real and fake.



## Fact Checking Checklist

1. Who wrote it? What news source was used?
2. When was it last published/edited?
3. Can media source be fact checked? Has any information been changed or proven to be misleading?
4. How reliable is the source?
5. Has anything been left out?

# Practice

Read the article, watch the video, and then answer the following questions on a piece of paper.

1. Describe the story and how false information was distributed in Illinois.
2. What facts were used to discredit the news story?
3. If you ONLY saw the video, would you believe the story on election fraud in Illinois? Explain.

<https://www.factcheck.org/2020/03/video-does-not-show-election-fraud-in-illinois/>



# Practice Answers



1. Describe the story and how false information was distributed in Illinois.
  - a. A local television station in Champaign, Illinois was practicing for primary election results with made-up statistics and results. Accidentally, these results were played over “The Price Is Right” and made some people believe the election was rigged.
2. What facts were used to discredit the news story?
  - a. The news station admitted it’s error and numerous journalism professors were asked about “practicing” elections results. Also, the fake/practice elections results did not match up with the real/factual results.
3. If you ONLY saw the video, would you believe the story on election fraud in Illinois? Explain.
  - a. If the video was only distributed through social media and no explanation from the news/factual research, then one would believe that election results were rigged.

# Reflection

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Listen to the interview from NPR's Senior Vice President of News and Editorial Director Michael Oreskes.

1. Why do journalists rely on facts?
2. According to Oreskes, what is the connection between civility, differences, and facts?

<https://www.npr.org/2016/11/12/501853660/npr-news-chief-on-the-role-of-journalism-facts-exist-and-they-matter>

