

HS Intro to Social and Online Media

Lesson:

Differing Between Real and Fake News/Info on Social Media
About Coronavirus

April 6, 2020

Learning Target:

Students Will Be Able To Judge Credibility of
News/Information They Come Across on Social Media

Let's Get Started:

1. Go to one of your social media accounts
2. Scroll through and quickly find three posts/mentions of the current Covid-19/Coronavirus Pandemic
3. Answer these questions for each one:
 - a. What is this source of this information?
 - b. What is the main point of the information being shared?
 - c. Does the information contradict anything from one of the other posts/mentions? From something you already believed to be true?
 - d. Do you believe the post is believable/true? Why?

Important Vocabulary For This Lesson:

Credibility: The fact that someone or something can be believed or trusted

Misinformation: False or inaccurate information that is mistakenly or inadvertently created or spread; the intent is not to deceive.

Disinformation: False information that is deliberately created and spread "in order to influence public opinion or obscure the truth"

Fake News: false stories that appear to be news, spread on the internet or using other media

Where Do Teens Get Their News/Information?

How often do you get news...

	<i>... from social media sites like Facebook or Twitter</i>	<i>... from digital news aggregators like Apple News or Google News, or from notifications on your phone</i>	<i>... from YouTube</i>	<i>... reported by news organizations in print or online</i>	<i>... on television</i>	<i>... by listening to podcasts</i>
Every day	29%	23%	23%	15%	13%	4%
A few times a week	25%	25%	27%	26%	24%	10%
Once a week	10%	12%	15%	16%	12%	8%
Less than once a week	13%	17%	19%	22%	28%	17%
Never	22%	22%	16%	22%	23%	60%

Where Do Teens Get Their News/Information?

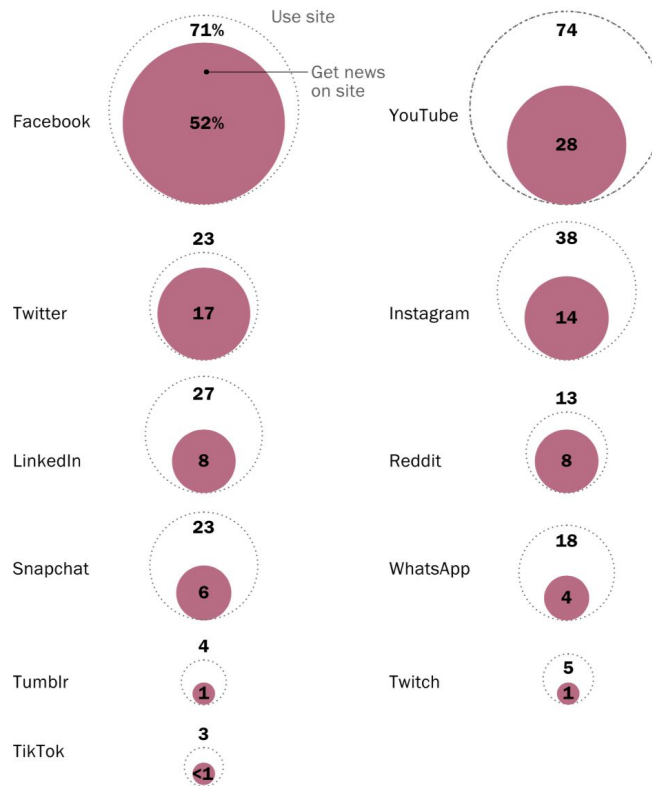
When you get your news _____, are you more likely to get it from celebrities, influencers, and personalities, or from news organizations?

	<i>... on YouTube</i>	<i>... on social media sites like Facebook or Twitter</i>
Celebrities, influencers, and personalities	60%	58%
News organizations	39%	41%

Where Do Adults Get Their News/Information?

Social media sites as pathways to news

% of U.S. adults who ...



Source: Survey conducted July 8-21, 2019.

"Americans Are Wary of the Role Social Media Sites Play in Delivering the News"

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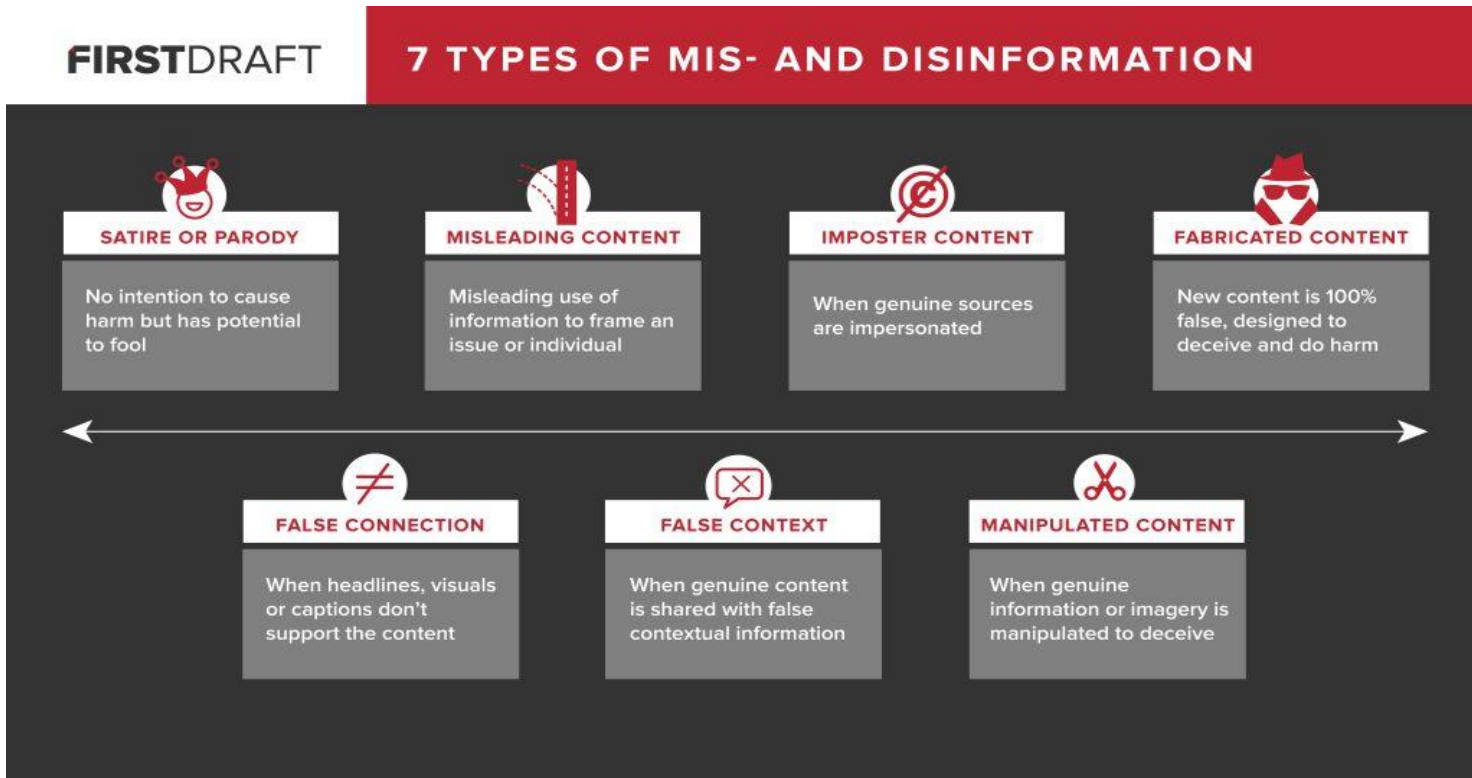
More and More People (Both Adults and Teens) are Getting Their News/Information From Social Media.

But, How Do We Know What We Are Reading Is True?

Read This Article: [Not All Posts Are Misinformation About Coronavirus On Social Media](#)

Where Does Fake News/Misinformation Come From?

Fake news is nothing new. But, what is new is how easy it's become to share information – both true and false – on a massive scale. Social media platforms allow almost anyone to publish their thoughts or share stories to the world. The trouble is, most people don't check the source of the material that they view online before they share it, which can lead to fake news and misinformation.



How Do We Decide What is Information and What is Misinformation on Social Media?

HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS



CONSIDER THE SOURCE
Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.



READ BEYOND
Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?



CHECK THE AUTHOR
Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?



SUPPORTING SOURCES?
Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.

It's quite simple.
Before you share,
post, retweet, like,
etc. ...

**Do These Four
Things**

Create

HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS



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Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.



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SUPPORTING SOURCES?

Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.

Take a few minutes and create a personal rubric/scoring system (based on these four criteria plus any you might want to add) for judging the credibility of the stories you come across on social media.

Practice

Go back to the three posts/mentions of the current Covid-19/Coronavirus Pandemic you found earlier.

Use the credibility rubric/scoring guide you created to judge each piece on its credibility.

Were all three highly credible?

Was one more or less credible than the others?

After scoring these pieces, has your stance changed on any of the information and what you had earlier believed?

Was there fake news or misinformation in your post?

More Practice

Go through either past or current social media and look for information/news on another subject that you believe to be accurate or true.

Using the credibility rubric/scoring guide you created to judge this news/information on its credibility.

Is it credible?

Is it fake news or misinformation?

How does it compare to other information you have come across on the same topic?

Resources/Other Important Articles on the Subject

[How to Spot Real and Fake News](#)

[Health experts embrace social media to fight coronavirus](#)

[The pandemic infodemic: how social media helps \(and hurts\) during the coronavirus outbreak](#)

[How to Handle Your Social Media During the Coronavirus Crisis](#)

[What is Fake News?](#)