

AVOIDING FAKE NEWS

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SUBJECT: Critical evaluation of information online

LESSON TOPIC: Techniques for identifying and avoiding fake news and misinformation

DURATION: 50 minutes

LEARNING OBJECTIVE/S:

Students will learn how to identify and avoid fake news and misinformation.

Competencies acquired: recognizing key characteristics of fake news and using strategies and applying tools to verify the accuracy of online information.

MATERIALS/RESOURCES NEEDED:

- Module 4 (<https://www.digi-civis.eu/e-learning>)
- Fact checking webs such as Newtral
- Case study

METHODS/TECHNIQUES:

The lesson combines an in-depth analysis of actual fake news examples with interactive fact-checking exercises.

LESSON PLAN OVERVIEW

PREPARATION:

- Prepare a lecture on fake news and its impact, using Module 4 of the Digi-Civis training course.
- Gather examples of fake news stories from various sources (see the example provided).
- Prepare a list of reliable fact-checking websites and tools.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- Discuss the rise of fake news and its impact on society. Introduce the concept of misinformation and its forms.
- Present examples of fake news. In small groups, students will analyze these examples to identify the techniques used to create and spread misinformation.
- Introduce and demonstrate fact-checking tools. Students will practice verifying the information from the fake news examples using these tools.

MORE INFORMATION TO LEARN MORE:

- [How false news can spread](#)
- [Newtral](#)
- [Snopes](#)

ANNEXES:

- A case study analysing fake news and misinformation that circulated during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Fact checking webs: Snopes, FactCheck.org, Full Fact, etc.

HOMEWORK:

Find a piece of news from social media, verify its accuracy using the fact-checking tools discussed in class and write a reflection.

ASSESSMENT:

Assess the accuracy of the homework assignment, focusing on the effectiveness of the fact-checking process.

ANNEX: FAKE NEWS CASE STUDY

COVID-19 vaccine contains tracking microchip!

A worker from a big pharmaceutical company has revealed shocking details about the COVID-19 vaccine. According to the insider, the vaccine contains a tiny microchip designed to track people without their consent. The microchip is reportedly activated by 5G networks and will be used to monitor the movements and activities of everyone who gets vaccinated. This unprecedented invasion of privacy has raised serious concerns among citizens, but the government and media are trying to keep it under wraps. Share this information before it's too late!



Now it's your turn! Try to complete the following activities.

Question 1: Does this news snippet seem credible?

- Real
- Fake

Question 2: What steps would you take to verify this claim?

- Research statements from reputable health organizations like the CDC or WHO.
- Look for scientific studies or expert opinions.
- Check fact-checking websites like Snopes or FactCheck.org.
- All of the above.

Question 3: Use one of the fact-checking tools we talked about in class to check the claims in the article. Is the claim true or false?

Question 4: Based on what you've learned, what are some ways you can stop fake news like this from spreading? How can you and your friends become better at spotting and avoiding misinformation?

[Check this article to verify information](#)