DIGI - CIVIS

CREDIBILITY OF ONLINE INFORMATION

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SUBJECT: Critical evaluation of information online

LESSON TOPIC: Evaluating the credibility of online information

DURATION: 50 minutes to 1 hour

LEARNING OBJECTIVE/S:
Students will understand the importance of critically evaluating online information to make informed decisions.
Competencies acquired: ability to assess the reliability and credibility of online sources and development of critical thinking skills to distinguish between trustworthy and unreliable information.

MATERIALS/RESOURCES NEEDED:
- Module 4 (https://www.digi-civis.eu/e-learning)
- Printed handouts
- Online articles or websites

METHODS/TECHNIQUES:
The lesson will include a group activity where students will analyze different online sources using evaluation criteria.

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LESSON PLAN OVERVIEW

PREPARATION:
- Prepare a presentation on evaluating online information.
- Print handouts in the example below (see in the next page) detailing the criteria for evaluating online sources.
- Select a set of online articles and webs of varying credibility (for example, Reddit, BBC News, The Gateway Pundit and The New York Times)

IMPLEMENTATION:
- Present the importance of evaluating online information. Discuss the risks of misinformation and the impact of unverified sources.
- Divide the class into small groups and distribute the selected articles/websites. Teach them to use the handout to assess the credibility of the sources.
- Then each group will present their findings. Facilitate a discussion on why certain sources were credible or not.

MORE INFORMATION TO LEARN MORE:
- 8 Tips to Help Students Evaluate Websites
- A Student's Guide to Evaluating Internet Sources and Information

ANNEXES:
Evaluation criteria to assess the credibility of the information

HOMEWORK:
Find an online article on a topic of interest and evaluate its credibility with the criteria discussed in class. Write a short reflection on your findings.
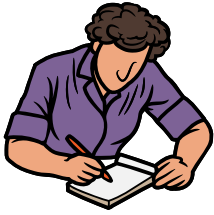
ASSESSMENT:
Evaluate students based on their ability to identify false information and their participation in the group activity.

ANNEX: EVALUATION CRITERIA

This criteria will help you decide whether the article or website is credible or not. Answer the following questions and decide if the information is reliable!

AUTHOR

- Who is the author? Check the author's credentials and expertise in the subject area.
- Is the author affiliated with an organization or institution? Look for professional affiliations or academic backgrounds.
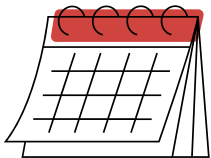
ACCURACY

- Is the information supported by evidence? Verify facts and cross-check with other reliable sources.
- Are there references or citations? Reliable sources usually provide evidence for their claims.

PURPOSE

- What is the purpose of the information? Determine if the content is intended to inform, persuade, or entertain.
- Is there a potential bias or agenda? Consider if the source has a particular perspective or motive.

DATE

- When was the information published? Check the publication date to ensure the information is current and up-to-date.
- Have there been updates or revisions? Look for any recent updates that may affect the relevance of the information.

INFORMATION

- Does the information cover the topic comprehensively? Evaluate if the source provides a thorough overview of the subject.
- Are there any noticeable gaps or missing information? Identify if there are important details that are omitted.