



Fact Checking in a Fake News World: Tools for Teachers & Students

Course Syllabus

Course Description

In today's information-saturated world, students must be critical news consumers and active participants in the ever-changing digital landscape. This course gives teachers the tools to foster media and digital literacy skills in their students. Participants will learn to distinguish credible sources from misinformation, analyze news bias, and explore fact-checking tools. They will also examine their digital habits, evaluate online information, and discover tools for online verification. By the end of the course, educators will be equipped to use and design engaging lessons that promote ethical digital citizenship, protect student privacy, and address the impact of social media on well-being using updated skills for the future of digital literacy.

This course enhances classroom teaching effectiveness and supports improved student outcomes by introducing new knowledge in effective instructional frameworks and essential tools for teaching media literacy and source evaluation.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Understand the modern information ecosystem.
2. Evaluate sources and detect bias.
3. Use digital verification tools.
4. Understand the impact of manipulated media and deepfakes.
5. Teach social media literacy and information dissemination.
6. Create engaging lessons to foster students' critical thinking skills towards online information.
7. Understand what the legal and ethical considerations are.
8. Analyze what the future holds with misinformation and the impact of technology.

Modules

- Module 1: Decoding the Digital Landscape, Quiz 1
- Module 2: Navigating the News: How to Evaluate Sources & Detect Bias, Quiz 2
- Module 3: Separating Fact from Fiction: Using the Essential Tools, Quiz 3
- Module 4: Real or 'Real Fake'? How To Tell the Difference, Quiz 4
- Module 5: The Maze of Social Media: How to Navigate Information and Disinformation Online, Quiz 5
- Module 6: Empowering The Next Generation: Teaching Media Literacy in the Classroom, Quiz 6
- Module 7: Legal and Ethical Issues in the Digital Age, Quiz 7



- Module 8: The Future of Truth: Technology and the Fight Against Misinformation, Quiz 8

Grading:

Each quiz must be passed at an 80% or higher (three attempts allowed).

Format

This is a self-paced, asynchronous (no required live meetings) course. Throughout the PD course, you will find it helpful to take notes along the way to assist with the quizzes. Within each module, you will find reflection assessments that are not graded but will help in your journey through the course. There is an interactive forum in the course to help you connect with peers and instructors, share ideas, and collaborate on best practices throughout your learning journey.