

# MEDIA LITERACY

## RESOURCE TOOLKIT FOR AMERICAN SPACES

*This Resource Toolkit is designed for programming at American Spaces to increase participants' awareness of disinformation and enhance their media literacy skills.*



### BEST PRACTICES

- Work closely with your Embassy or Consulate to create serial programs that address disinformation and misinformation in your local context.
- Invite local journalists from independent and reputable outlets to discuss journalism ethics, fake news, and current events.
- Start clubs that give aspiring or young journalists tools to create their own content, e.g., film making, podcasting, photography, or journalism clubs.
- On your computers, bookmark accurate sources of local and international news and games that teach media literacy.
- Use videos/online courses on media literacy in your English classes.

### WHERE DO I EVEN BEGIN?

The rise of misinformation and disinformation is worrisome. This toolkit is designed to give you the resources to strengthen American Spaces visitors' critical thinking and media literacy skills. Work with your Embassy or Consulate in collaboration with local partners, U.S. government exchange alumni, and journalists.

Always keep in mind the ABCs. Who is your **A**udience, what is the **B**ehavior change you want to see, and what is the **C**ontent of the program? Below are examples of types of programs that your American Space can run:

- Journalism, photography, or podcasting clubs
- Internet and media literacy courses for specific audience like parents, journalists, or teachers
- Online course on media literacy and cyber security

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of STATE  
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

## RESOURCES

### Voice of America (USAGM)

The U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM) provides unbiased reporting in countries and languages across the world. Here's information on how American Spaces can use USAGM resources, including how to get a USAGM expert to present virtually.

### Fact Checking Sites

- [Snopes](#) - Find out whether the stories you're reading about are true.
- [Mediawell](#) - This social science research site has excellent articles on disinformation

### Videos

- [Facts about Fact Checking](#) - Crash Course on Navigating Digital Information
- [VoA's News Literacy videos](#) with vocabulary and transcripts
- [This series from YALI](#) teaches viewers how to spot fake news
- [How to Spot Disinformation](#) from ShareAmerica
- [Importance of Skepticism](#) from ShareAmerica

### ShareAmerica Articles

- [How do you know what you're seeing online is true?](#)
- [Space Aliens Invading?](#)
- [Journalists to Politicians: Stick to the facts!](#)
- [Internet Trolls](#)



## Lesson Plans

### Newseum

The Newseum's online materials includes videos, articles, and self-paced courses on disinformation and media literacy. You'll need to [create a free account](#) to access their materials. Check out there [activity guide](#) on COVID-19 misinformation.

### Fact Checking Activity Kit

Developed by educational organization IREX, this kit provides lesson plans for two workshops around personal media landscapes and fact checking with handouts and extra resources.

### News and Media Literacy Collection from PBS

These lessons can be conducted individually or as a course for Emerging Voices audiences.

### Center for News Literacy

From Stony Brook University, this site provides free lesson plans, videos, and presentations on evaluating news and social media.

### Project Look Sharp

Here are 5 free downloadable lesson plans and videos that teach participants how to analyze disinformation. Free account required.

### Assessing the News Activity

Created for the American Spaces, this activity guide teaches participants to discern between real and fake news.

## RESOURCES

American Spaces  
Cybersecurity Toolkit

Shareable Content from  
American English

- 7 social media graphics from American English at State
- American English media literacy playlist on YouTube

### Podcasting

- Consider starting a **podcasting club**. Here's an easy to [follow guide](#) from ECA on how to create your own podcast.

### Games

- [Harmony Square](#) - Based on research, this game was co-developed by the State Department. It's easy to play and available in several languages.
- [Factitious](#) - Test your ability to identify fake news.
- [Google's Interland](#) - This arcade style game teaches users information safety and signs to spot misinformation
- [MediaSmarts](#) has a number of fun educational games
- [NewsFeed Defenders](#) from iCivics allows you to choose an avatar to detect and disregard disinformation

### Resources for Civil Society

- [The Oxford Internet Institute](#) has created a resource toolkit for civil society organizations to address disinformation.



## Discussion Guides

### Credible News Making Webinar

In this webinar, a U.S. professor of journalism and former broadcaster discusses the current multi-media digital platforms and why journalists must maintain ethical standards. The guide contains resources, discussion questions, and suggestions on running a virtual program around the webinar.

### Media Literacy in Schools

This discussion guide of a 7 minute news segment on teaching media literacy in U.S. schools allows participants to understand the importance of sourcing and discerning between fact and opinion.

### Shattered Glass Discussion Guide

The movie *Shattered Glass*\* follows the story of a young journalist climbing the ranks and what happens when he is discovered to be a fraud. The discussion guide brings out the importance of journalism ethics and the role of the media.

## Online Courses for Clubs

### English for media literacy

This 3-4 week self-paced course ends December 27, 2021. It is designed for non-native English speakers to learn English and at the same time to analyze media messages and understand bias.

### Making Sense of the News

This free 6-week Coursera course develops critical thinking skills to better identify reliable information.

## English Language Resources

- [Media Circles: Lively, Learner-Led Lessons](#) - Provides tips on using media literacy concepts in the EFL classroom
- [Empowering Your Students with Media Literacy](#) - Explores activities on media literacy

\*Post will need to procure this film. The Office of American Spaces is not endorsing this movies as it may not be appropriate for all audiences. Coordinators should screen the films ahead of showing them. Here's a [link](#) with more information on showing movies at American Spaces.