

MEDIA LITERACY AND COUNTERING DISINFORMATION

RESOURCE TOOLKIT FOR AMERICAN SPACES

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



BEST PRACTICES

- Work closely with your Embassy or Consulate to create serial programs that address disinformation 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 state-sponsored disinformation and fake news is worrisome. The U.S. government is committed to countering this problem worldwide. This toolkit is designed to give you the resources to increase American Spaces visitors' awareness of disinformation and fake news and to strengthen critical thinking and media literacy skills. Some of the best programming is created with your Embassy or Consulate and working with local partners, U.S. government exchange alumni, and journalists. Always keep in mind the ABCs created by Camille Francois. Manipulative **A**ctors, with clear intentions to disrupt democratic processes, Deceptive **B**ehaviors, as tactics and techniques used to manipulate actors, and Harmful **C**ontent pushed to hurt and/or undermine individuals, organizations, or the public interest and influence the public debate.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of STATE
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

RESOURCES

Voice of America (USAGM)

The United States Agency for Global Media (USAGM) provides unbiased reporting in countries and languages across the world.

Fact Checking Site

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

Videos for clubs and English classes

- [VoA's News Literacy videos](#) with vocabulary and transcripts
- [This series from YALI](#) teacher viewers how to spot fake news

ShareAmerica

- [How do you know what you're seeing online is true?](#)
- [Space Aliens Invading: War of the Worlds](#)
- [Journalists to Politicians: Stick to the facts!](#)
- [Importance of Skepticism](#)
- [How to Spot Disinformation](#)



Lesson Plans and Resources

Newseum

You may have heard that the Newseum has closed, but its online materials, including self-paced courses on disinformation and media literacy, have not. You'll need to create a free account to access their materials. They have published [an activity guide](#) and resources on disinformation surrounding COVID-19.

Project Look Sharp

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

Civic Online Reasoning

This site has lesson plans and handouts on media literacy, critical thinking, and source verification. You must create a free account.

Online Course: Making Sense of the News

This free 6-week Coursera course from City University of New York develops critical thinking skills to better identify reliable information.

Resources for Civil Society: The Oxford Internet Institute has created a resource toolkit for civil society organizations to address disinformation.

Games

- [CatPark](#)- Designed for all audiences this 15 minute game boosts your defenses against disinformation
- [Google's Interland](#) - This arcade style game designed for children teaches users information safety and signs to spot misinformation
- [NewsFeed Defenders](#) from iCivics allows you to choose an avatar to detect and disregard disinformation