

The West Australian



Tuesday March 30, 2021

Read the feature topic on hoaxes in today's ED! Magazine and complete some of the activities below.



- What does the term 'fake news' mean?
- What is critical thinking, and why is it important?
- What steps can you take to be a more critical thinker?



- In pairs, consider how people who were tricked by one of these hoaxes could have checked to see if the situation was real.
- Practical jokes can be funny, but it is important that the person being tricked is able to laugh about it too, and not feel embarrassed or bullied. Create a checklist that could be used to determine whether a practical joke would be enjoyable for everyone involved.
- Can you think of any attention grabbing headlines you've seen on magazines or non-traditional news websites? Did the headline actually match what was written in the article?



- What are some possible consequences of 'fake news' being readily available online?
- Has anyone in your household received a scam phone call or email? Conduct a class survey, then display your results in a table.
- Search online to find an example of a conspiracy theory. Do many people seem to believe this theory? What makes it seem convincing?



- Why do you think some people click on online articles to read more if they already suspect the article is fake news?
- In pairs, discuss which of the hoaxes listed seem the most believable to you. Did you have similar ideas? What is it about these hoaxes that makes them more convincing?
- It is very easy to share information online with a simple click, which is how 'fake news' spreads. Do you think that individuals should be held responsible if they share misinformation, either intentionally or accidentally?



- Write a short story based on one of the hoaxes mentioned in the article.
- Create a humorous April Fool's Day social media post that WA Police could use. The aim is to be funny, but not trick people into believing something bad is happening.



- Visit thewest.com.au and enter 'scam' into the search bar to see if there are any recent news articles about scams.

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Join *The West's* Media Education team in our aim to create a media-savvy generation.

Online Media Education activities are designed to enable students to become critical consumers of news. Through completing the activities, students will develop the skills to consider, question, inquire and challenge reported news stories. Media Education encourages students to be informed citizens of global issues considering multiple perspectives before generating their own ideas and opinions.



Read this week's Newsflash stories to get the gist, then choose one or more of these activities to explore further.

<p>DIG DEEPER</p> <p>Discover a fact that someone else might not know.</p>	<p>TAKE SIDES</p> <p>Is there a conflict? Who do you agree with? Why?</p>	<p>SO WHAT?</p> <p>Why does this matter?</p>
<p>YOUR LINE</p> <p>Write an alternative headline for this story.</p>	<p>THIS JUST IN</p> <p>Find out the latest updates on this story.</p>	<p>PANTS ON FIRE</p> <p>Is anyone not telling the truth? What makes you think this?</p>
<p>FACT OR OPINION</p> <p>On your copy of Newsflash, highlight facts in one colour, and opinions in another.</p>	<p>MAP IT</p> <p>Create a mind map of everything you know about this topic.</p>	<p>WHAT NEXT?</p> <p>Make a prediction. What do you think will happen next?</p>
<p>5W + H</p> <p>Can you discover the <i>who, what, when, where, why</i> and <i>how</i> of this story?</p>	<p>SURVEY SAYS</p> <p>Conduct a survey to find out what your classmates think of an issue.</p>	<p>WINNER, WINNER</p> <p>Who do you think might benefit from this story?</p>