

Civics for Adults - Resources for Misinformation and Propaganda – Telling Truth from Fiction Workshop

On Factchecking and Fake News

Factcheck.org <http://www.factcheck.org>

Politifact <http://www.politifact.org>

Snopes <http://www.snopes.com>

The Fact-Checker <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/fact-checker>

AFP's Fact-checker [AFP is Agence France Press] <https://factcheck.afp.com/>

A search engine that just delivers results from fact-checking websites: <http://bit.ly/fact-search>

VERIFY IT!™: The Premier Civics, Voting, News Literacy Game

<https://playverifyit.org/>

Debunking Handbook 2020. Lewandowsky et al. Center for Climate Change Communication. 2020

<https://www.climatechangecommunication.org/debunking-handbook-2020/>

Conspiracy Theory Handbook. Lewandowsky et al. Center for Climate Change Communication. 2023

<https://www.climatechangecommunication.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ConspiracyTheoryHandbook.pdf>

Why do Americans share so much fake news? One big reason is they aren't paying attention, new research suggests. Ordway. 3/17/2021. <https://journalistsresource.org/media/share-fake-news-social-media/>

News Literacy Project Resources for teaching news literacy.

<https://newsliit.org/>

How to Spot Fake News. Politifact. Video. [Especially good for teens]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkwWcHekMdo>

Viral Rumor Rundown from The Sift. In which they take a tweet with video and track, step-by-step, how to determine whether it is true or false. Shows various verification techniques.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALjwUWxzYCY&feature=youtu.be&emci=9c20e9fa-6a99-ea11-86e9-00155d03b5dd&emdi=097c2177-7299-ea11-86e9-00155d03b5dd&ceid=7505250>

These 6 tips will help you spot misinformation online. Mahadevan. Poynter Institute. 12/22/21

<https://www.poynter.org/fact-checking/2021/these-6-tips-will-help-you-spot-misinformation-online/>

How to Be Safe on Social Media, Especially if You're LGBTQ+. Vines. Consumer Reports. 5/2024.

https://www.consumerreports.org/social-media/how-to-be-safe-on-social-media-especially-if-youre-lgbtq-a7554342618/?EXTKEY=YSOCIAL_PAIDPROMO_FB&fbclid=IwAR3vz-39aaab2fQjq5-7Gf5n-XyeNsmaLKKDopwXB1SCWag2VTN6JBh4HI

How to Filter Hate Speech, Hoaxes, and Violent Clips Out of Your Social Media Feeds. Germain. Consumer Reports. 7/21/22.

<https://www.consumerreports.org/social-media/filter-hate-speech-hoaxes-violent-clips-out-of-social-media-a6432199534/>

Deepfakes and AI

Can you tell the difference? Jake Tapper uses his own deepfake to show how powerful AI is

CNN. 10/4/24. *This is a good report showing several deepfake political ads.*

<https://www.cnn.com/2024/10/04/politics/video/ai-elections-jake-tapper-lead-digvid>

SB 1571 Oregon's law about AI and political ads. Just passed last year.

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2024R1/Measures/Overview/SB1571>

Oregon Attorney General issues AI Guidance for businesses.

Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete, LLP. Feb 17, 2025.

<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/oregon-attorney-general-issues-ai-4724632/>

Political deepfakes are spreading like wildfire thanks to GenAI. Kyle Wiggers March 6, 2024

<https://techcrunch.com/2024/03/06/political-deepfakes-are-spreading-like-wildfire-thanks-to-genai/>

Can you tell AI-generated people from real ones? University of Waterloo. 2024.
<https://uwaterloo.ca/news/media/can-you-tell-ai-generated-people-real-ones>

AI and Democracy. Brennan Center. 3/26/2024.
<https://www.brennancenter.org/series/ai-and-democracy>

New deepfake threats loom, says Microsoft's chief science officer. Goldman. 9/26/22.
<https://venturebeat.com/ai/new-deepfake-threats-loom-says-microsofts-chief-science-officer/>

Backgrounder on Deepfakes in 2021 from Media Witness Lab
<https://lab.witness.org/backgrounder-deepfakes-in-2021/>

Educator's Guide: Types of Online Fakes. Silverman and Tsubaki
<http://verificationhandbook.com/additionalmaterial/types-of-online-fakes.php>
[Part of the Verification Handbook <http://verificationhandbook.com/>]

When seeing is no longer believing: Inside the Pentagon's race against deepfake videos. Extensive examples of deep fakes.
[https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2019/01/business/pentagons-race-against-deepfakes/?ct=t\(EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_10_1_2018_17_21_COPY_01\)](https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2019/01/business/pentagons-race-against-deepfakes/?ct=t(EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_10_1_2018_17_21_COPY_01))

On getting Your Personal Information that has been collected by Facebook
Facebook Download Option Download your Facebook full info: <https://www.facebook.com/help/212802592074644>

Sites that attempt to classify media sources by political slant
Media Bias Fact Check
<https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/>

AllSides
<https://www.allsides.com/unbiased-balanced-news>

Journalism – how to do it right
How to separate fact and fiction online. Markham Nolan. [an excerpt of the video is shown in the workshop]
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sNV4ylyXXX0>

Journalism and Resources ABOUT the Media
Columbia Journalism Review www.cjr.org
Poynter <https://www.poynter.org/>

Pew Research Center: Journalism and Media Great research!
<https://www.pewresearch.org/>

Doing more good: why Oregon needs to rebuild its civic information infrastructure
Andrew DeVigal. Oregon Capital Chronicle. May 21, 2025.
<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2025/05/21/doing-more-good-why-oregon-needs-to-rebuild-its-civic-information-infrastructure/>

Assessing Oregon's Local News & Information Ecosystem 2025.
Lawrence and DeVigal. University of Oregon School of Journalism. March 2025.
<https://agorajournalism.center/newsecosystem25/>

U.S. Journalism Has Become More Subjective
Rand Corporation. May 14, 2019. <https://www.rand.org/news/press/2019/05/14.html>

The Press's role as a watchdog on government. Frontline. Various views of the role of journalism in society.
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/newswar/tags/watchdog.html>

Journalism: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver. Aug 7, 2016 [Very good if you don't mind swearing.]
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bq2_wSsDwkQ

Pink Slime Journalism

“Pink Slime Journalism” and a history of media manipulation in America

Stuart Anderson-Davis. Columbia Journalism Review. February 23, 2024.

https://www.cjr.org/tow_center/pink-slime-journalism-and-a-history-of-media-manipulation-in-america.php

An illustrated guide to ‘pink slime’ journalism: These low-effort websites fill the vacuum where real local news used to be. Annie Aguiar. Poynter Institute. October 5, 2023

<https://www.poynter.org/fact-checking/media-literacy/2023/pink-slime-journalism-local-news-deserts/>

Argumentation/Logical Fallacies

Logical Fallacies Video – a humorous, animated, look at how several different logical fallacies work [or don't!]

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wmlb2Jb-KC8&list=PL47349652D60D963E&index=1&feature=plpp_video

Political Ads

These campaign ads may have misled you. Here's how to spot their tricks. From The Fact Checker, Washington Post. Nice guide to what to watch for in political ads. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4ls--ko9qQ>

The Campaign Killers Strategies for making a candidate look bad. Good short video.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=9DDHqqfH-Lg

Facebook Ad Archive

https://www.facebook.com/ads/archive/?active_status=all&ad_type=political_and_issue_ads&country=US

Google Political Ad Archive <https://transparencyreport.google.com/political-ads/library?hl=en>

Propaganda

Political Propaganda

How Americans Got Sold on Cigarettes. Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSdy4bdpe-E>

German Propaganda Archive at Calvin College <http://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/index.htm>

Medicaid / Medicare / Obamacare

Poll: With More Than Half the Public Saying They or a Family Member Have Been Covered by Medicaid, Large Majorities Don't Want Cuts, Including Most Trump Voters and Rural Residents. Kaiser Family Foundation. March, 2025.

<https://www.kff.org/medicaid/press-release/poll-with-more-than-half-the-public-saying-they-or-a-family-member-have-been-covered-by-medicaid-large-majorities-dont-want-cuts-including-most-trump-voters-and-rural-residents/>

Health care debate shows the lies I told for insurance companies about 'Medicare for All' worked

Wendell Potter. NBC. Oct 16, 2019.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/health-care-debate-shows-lies-i-told-insurance-companies-about-ncna1067331>

PolitiFact's Lie of the Year: 'A government takeover of health care'. Politifact. Dec, 2009.

<https://www.politifact.com/article/2010/dec/17/lie-year-government-takeover-health-care/>

Luntz to GOP: Health reform is popular. Great discussion of how to use language to influence people, in this case, to oppose the Affordable Care Act. Mike Allen. Politico. 05/05/2009

<https://www.politico.com/story/2009/05/luntz-to-gop-health-reform-is-popular-022155>

Media – Russian Propaganda

DOJ outlines Russia's disinformation campaigns designed to interfere with U.S. election

PBS Newshour. 9/4/2024. [Note: from this same day's broadcast there is a segment on the use of AI by foreign entities to influence the public. You will find it on the page for the 9/4 broadcast.]

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/doj-outlines-russias-disinformation-campaigns-designed-to-interfere-with-u-s-election>

Polls – on immigration

Majority of Americans support deporting immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally. However, new Axios/Ipsos poll also finds that support declines when specific policies to carry out mass deportations are outlined. *Demonstrates how phrasing of poll questions changes results.* Ipsos. 19 January 2025.

<https://www.ipsos.com/en-us/majority-americans-support-deporting-immigrants-who-are-us-illegally>

Americans' Views of Deportations. Luis Noe-Bustamante and Jens Manuel Krogstad. Pew Center. March 26, 2025.
<https://www.pewresearch.org/race-and-ethnicity/2025/03/26/americans-views-of-deportations/>

Google Tricks

Add these after keywords – find only educational sites: site:edu non-profits: site:org gov institutions: site:gov
Find only PDF files – add: filetype:pdf

Economy

Americans Continue to View Several Economic Issues as Top National Problems. Pew Center. Feb, 2025
<https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2025/02/20/americans-continue-to-view-several-economic-issues-as-top-national-problems/>

Voters Were Right About the Economy. The Data Was Wrong.

Here's why unemployment is higher, wages are lower and growth less robust than government statistics suggest.
Eugene Ludwig. Politico. 2/11/2025.

<https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2025/02/11/democrats-tricked-strong-economy-00203464>

Ludwig Institute for Shared Prosperity <https://www.lisep.org/>

True Rate of Unemployment – TRU: <https://www.lisep.org/tru>

Beyond Survival: Analyzing the True Cost of Economic Well-Being: Minimal Quality of Life Index

Ludwig Institute. May, 2025 Webpage for report: <https://lisep.org/mql>

Article about the report: **Most Americans don't earn enough to afford basic costs of living, analysis finds**

Megan Cerullo. CBS News. May 16, 2025 <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cost-of-living-income-quality-of-life/>

An economist's vision of economic growth — with less destruction

WBUR. 9/6/2024. <https://www.wbur.org/onpoint/2024/09/06/economic-growth-gdp-daniel-susskind-jobs>

Economic Data Paint a Picture of Two Americas Aaron Back. Wall Street Journal. 6/8/24

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/markets/economic-data-paint-a-picture-of-two-americas/ar-BB1nR3xT?ocid=msedgntp&pc=DCTS&cvid=4e5592a1dc884fb2982e288041f043e6&ei=37>

Cramer says the 'bifurcated consumer' is making this market hard to understand

Julie Coleman. CNBC. Feb 5 2024.

<https://www.cnbc.com/2024/02/05/cramer-says-the-bifurcated-consumer-makes-market-hard-to-understand.html>

The US economy is in a 'selective recession' as lower-income consumers struggle and high-income households see huge wealth creation, JPMorgan strategist says

Jennifer Sor. Business Insider. 6/28/2024.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/markets/the-us-economy-is-in-a-selective-recession-as-lower-income-consumers-struggle-and-high-income-households-see-huge-wealth-creation-jpmorgan-strategist-says/ar-BB1p4HB7?ocid=msedgntp&pc=DCTS&cvid=2c7644e511a24ee3b4a7f61f2a7fedf6&ei=7>

Household Income: What It Is and How to Calculate It. Scott et al. Investopedia. 7/31/2024.

Good discussion of differing ways to describe and measure income, including *difference between average and median*.

https://www.investopedia.com/terms/h/household_income.asp

The Problems With GDP, Unemployment Rates, And Other Official Economic Measures. Erik Sherman. 7/7/2019.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/eriksherman/2019/07/07/the-problems-with-gdp-unemployment-rates-and-other-official-economic-measures/#4302fcb721c9>

Income Inequality in the United States. Inequality.org Factsheet. Eye-opening statistics with great graphics!

<https://inequality.org/facts/income-inequality/>

Miscellaneous

Example of Good Reporting – No reporter judgements, no reporter analysis; just the facts, and quotes from authorities and first-person accounts: **Train crash in Germany kills at least 10, injures 80**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-3438398/Train-crash-southern-Germany-causes-injuries.html>

Trapped in a hoax: survivors of conspiracy theories speak out. Jan 2019.

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2019/jan/23/conspiracy-theories-internet-survivors-truth>

Opinion Today <https://opiniontoday.com/> - survey results from various sources.