Lesson Plan
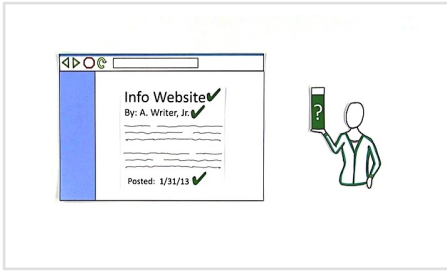
This lesson plan is designed to help you teach using a Common Craft video. Use the information below to introduce the video and then follow the video with discussion questions and other resources.

commoncraft

Watch the Video

Evaluating Information Online
Explained by Common Craft

This video introduces the basics of evaluating the quality of information found online. It encourages evaluating media in the way an editor would review an article. By thinking like an editor, we can be our own gatekeeper and learn to find the most trustworthy information.

ISTE Standard:
Knowledge Constructor, Indicator 3b

ACRL Info Literacy Frame:
Authority is Constructed and Contextual, Searching as Strategic Exploration, Scholarship as Conversation

Learning Outcomes

- Describe challenges that exist when looking for quality information on the Internet

- Explain what it means to assume the role of an editor when evaluating information

- Evaluate website information with the following criteria: Reputation, Biases, Reliability, Currency, Source Quality

Discussion Questions

Q #1

What challenges have you encountered when evaluating a website for trustworthiness?

Q #2

What criteria have you used to determine the trustworthiness of a website?

Knowledge Check Q&A

Q

What is the role of editors and why is it important to think like an editor when visiting a website?

A

An editor acts like a gatekeeper and ensures that publishers only print trustworthy information. For most websites, there is no gatekeeper, so you, the reader, must take an active role in deciding which websites to trust.

Q

True or False. An article that includes high quality sources is likely to be trustworthy.

A

True.

Q

What are three questions you should ask yourself when considering the reputation of a website?

A

1) Do you recognize the website or author? 2) Is the website or author a known authority? 3) Is the information current?

Q

What are two questions you should ask yourself when considering an author's goals and biases?

A

1) Are they selling something? 2) Is he or she representing an organization or group?

Resources for Learning More

Lifewire
Wendy Boswell
"Three ways to evaluate the quality of a website" 11/1/2016

https://www.lifewire.com/evaluate-quality-of-website-3482744

Cornell University Library
"Evaluating websites: Criteria and tools" 2/13/2014

https://olinuris.library.cornell.edu/ref/research/webeval.html

Elmer E. Rasmuson Library
"Evaluating information sources" 4/24/2015

https://library.uaf.edu/ls101-evaluation

New York Times
Katherine Schulten and Amanda Christy Brown
"Evaluating sources in a 'post-truth' world" 1/19/2017

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/19/learning/lesson-plans/evaluating-sources-in-a-post-truth-world-ideas-for-teaching-and-learning-about-fake-news.html

TED
Markham Nolan
"How to separate fact and fiction online" 11/2012

https://www.ted.com/talks/markham_nolan_how_to_separate_fact_and_fiction_online

TeachBytes
Aditi Rao
"10 hilarious hoax sites to test website evaluation" 11/1/2012

https://teachbytes.com/2012/11/01/test-website-evaluation-with-10-hilarious-hoax-sites/