

CRITICAL THINKING:

TURN IT ON AND PASS IT ON!

THE ESSENTIALS: CRITICAL THINKING IN SCHOOL AND DAILY LIFE

Always check your sources

Even if the information seems reliable, think critically – verify it every single time.

Verify facts, not opinions

When disagreeing with an opinion, bear in mind that it represents a subjective viewpoint. Rather than rejecting it outright, verify the facts on which it is based.

Don't trust yourself!

Always ask yourself: “How do I know this?” Verify information that aligns with your beliefs – otherwise, you'll fall into the confirmation bias trap.

Verification is a process

The path to identifying the facts may differ depending on the subject matter and the nature of the information.

AFTER THE MEETING: TAKEAWAYS WE WORKED OUT



Youth online vs. misinformation: why students believe fake news and how to prevent it



Beyond the youth

While the overwhelming majority of Poles are worried about misinformation, most of us still regularly share fake news. This is driven by several factors, such as cognitive economy or conformism. But it's not only the young who are captivated by the power and simplicity of ChatGPT!



90%

Up to 9 in 10 Poles had spread at least one of the false claims that were analysed in the report. The youth replicates fake news just as frequently as the rest of the population. (report „Dezinformacja oczami Polaków”, 2024).

85%

In the eyes of most Poles, the spread of false information online is the greatest threat to the modern world. (report „International Opinion on Global Threats 2025” 2025).

70%

7 out of 10 teenagers use AI-powered tools. The exact same percentage is unfamiliar with the basic term for „fake content created by AI” (report „Nastolatki 2025”).

50%

Only half of Polish teenagers report checking whether the information they share is authentic (report „Nastolatki 3.0”, 2023).

25%

Only one in four teenagers is worried about online misinformation. By comparison, 60% of surveyed parents share this concern (report „Nastolatki 3.0”, 2023).

The rules of the road for misinformation

The internet is a parallel dimension of our lives. However, we still lack particular rules and guidelines on how to stay safe online. To solve it, you can work with your students to develop a code for navigating the infosphere, and revisit it regularly to build long-lasting good habits.

Analogy in the service of media education

Don't let your students leave school believing that misinformation is strictly a tool of "high politics". Show them that critical thinking isn't just about interpreting complex statistics, but also about making responsible consumer choices. You can compare clickbait and AI slop to fast food, contrasting the impact of an unhealthy diet with the consequences of consuming unverified and manipulated information.



Critical thinking and the curriculum: how to teach it when you're out of time?

Unleashing critical thinking: suggested activities

Media Review - regular review of the news will not only spark your students' curiosity about the world, but also teach them how to use reliable information sources and avoid manipulative ones.

Debates (Especially Oxford-style) - they require students to prepare substantively for a discussion and master the art of argumentation. Such skills will allow them to react faster, more effectively, and more critically to flashy headlines and shallow claims.

AI Detector - artificial intelligence is with us both at school and at home. We cannot eliminate it, but we can learn how to use it responsibly. Analyse examples of AI hallucinations together with your students.

What's trending

Use the topics your students live and breathe. Let their interests become the starting point for a conversation about misinformation.



Sparking Vigilance

Avoid fostering the belief that authorities are infallible, and don't expect students to simply memorize and repeat definitions. Instead, work with them to critically examine whether the textbook they are using contains oversimplifications.



Teachers under information pressure: how to teach critical thinking when we're overstimulated ourselves?

Show the sources, don't just give the answers

Partner with your students as they grow and build core skills. Rather than feeding them quick fixes, develop their critical thinking with thoughtfully designed activities and open-ended questions, allowing them to arrive at their own conclusions.

Cultivate good habits in your students

Aim to ensure that your students verify the origin and accuracy of information before spreading it. Introduce them to reliable sources of information that can serve as a solid foundation for building their knowledge of the world.

Turning mistakes into resilience

Leverage slip-ups (both yours and your students') – use them as opportunities to learn about misinformation and technology. A safe, supportive, and creative environment empowers young people to ask questions, think critically, and learn from their own experiences.



A Misinformation-Resilient School: Just a topic for Civics, or every teacher's responsibility?

"Between the lines"

Introduce critical thinking following the whole-school approach principle. If you teach math, you can show your students how data is manipulated through the incorrect scaling of chart axes.

A Shift in Perspective: Education for the Future

Define your overarching goal by asking yourself: what kind of citizen will my student become? Focus on their capacity for autonomous decision-making, critical thinking, and civic engagement.

We want independent and critical thinkers!

Give your students real agency and the right to choose. Once they leave the school walls, it won't be the grades on their report cards that matter, but their independence and capacity for critical thinking.

CHECK FACTS!



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Teachers confronting misinformation: put our resources into action!

CURRICULUM INTEGRATION

Use these resources across multiple subjects – don't limit them to homeroom periods. The materials are designed to support your educational goals in a way that aligns perfectly with the core curriculum.

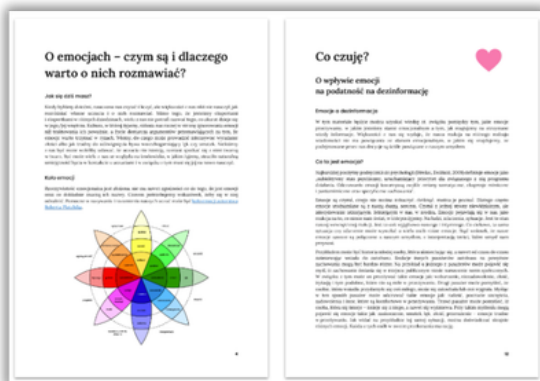


LET'S PLAY: GAME & QUIZ

- Quiz „Fajnie, że wiesz”
- Game „The bad news” (ENG)
- Game „Oktogram” + instruction

GOING DEEPER – EMOTIONAL TRIGGERS AND CRITICAL THINKING:

- Tap into **CEDMO** resources;
- Make use of educational materials such as „Krytyczne myślenie w pigułce”.
- Utilize the toolkit „Fakty nie fikcja! Jak wzmacniać odporność na dezinformację u młodzieży?”.
- Incorporate activities from „Dezinformacja pod lupą! Praktyczne ćwiczenia”.



Tools:

- Verified information database: [Fact Check Explorer](#).
- Reverse image search: [Google Lens](#) ([images.google.com](#)) or [TinEye](#).
- AI-generated content detection tools (no tool can definitively confirm the origin of content): [AI or Not](#), [Hive AI](#) or [PimEyes](#).
- Virtual machine for website inspection: [BrowserLing](#).

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