

TEACHER'S CORNER – OCTOBER 2017

MEDIA LITERACY

News and information are more readily available to our students today than ever before. Radio and television news can be accessed with the click of a button. Print news sources, such as newspapers and magazines, are usually easy to find at shops and newsstands.

Perhaps even more noteworthy is how the internet has made it very easy for people, including our students, to access news and information at any time from nearly anywhere. Moreover, research shows a steadily growing number of people use social media and even messaging apps as a news source.¹

The increasing popularity of finding news and information on the internet and through social media has placed new emphasis on the need to teach students about media literacy. Because the internet and social media have also made it possible for anyone to create content or share information, it is important that students understand how to evaluate the quality and accuracy of different news sources.

This month in the Teacher's Corner, we will present a series of activities that help to develop students' critical thinking and media literacy skills. The activities will familiarize students with characteristics of both credible and questionable news sources while requiring students to observe, reflect, and share ideas with classmates.

1. Shearer, Elisa, and Jeffrey Gottfried. "News Use Across Social Media Platforms 2017." Pew Research Center, 7 Sept. 7 2017, <http://www.journalism.org/2017/09/07/news-use-across-social-media-platforms-2017/>.