

Consider the Source

**Information Quality in Our Digital
World**

The Not Too Distant Past

For generations of Americans, the news was what appeared in mass media, either in major newspapers or spoken by authoritative broadcasters such as Edward R. Murrow, Walter Cronkite and Barbara Walters.

Fast Forward to the Internet Age

The news comes to us online in a vast jumble of information, misinformation, marketing, opinion, propaganda and spin via search engine sites and YouTube and Facebook and blogs and Pinterest and Twitter.

We're Not Just News Consumers

WE ARE CREATORS, SHARERS and PUBLISHERS.

The Opportunity

We each have more information at our fingertips than ever before and the ability to become well informed or misinformed and the ability to inform or misinform others depending upon how we use the Internet.

The Challenge

How do we make sense of it all and how do we become informed and stay informed? How can we assess the quality of the information we see, hear and read and how can we be responsible contributors?

Multidisciplinary Approach

What can we learn from different disciplines including journalism, law and science, about methods and standards for finding credible information and assessing accuracy?

The Individual in Society

How does all of the above impact our ability to be well informed and civically engaged and what are the implications for society?

Learning Goals

- To familiarize students to the importance of being and staying informed by finding credible sources of information, including news information.
- To provide students with some guidelines for finding, evaluating and verifying credible information.
- To provide students with some guidelines for being credible contributors to information through their social networking activities and Internet communications.

Interventions

- High School News Literacy Summit
- Workshop for News and Media Literacy and Youth Media Educators
- Toolbox related to the election and debt deadlock with interactive exercises.
- Virtual summit for high school-aged students using interactive activities and teachers serving as coaches.
- Outreach through high schools and libraries.
- Freshman seminar curriculum, which can be adapted for all age groups. So far, high school students in Palo Alto, first semester undergraduates at City University of New York's Baruch College, honors scholars at Columbia University and 9-to-19 year olds in Turkey.

Core Learning Goals

To familiarize students to the importance of being and staying informed by finding accurate information, including news information.

To provide students with some guidelines for finding, evaluating and verifying accurate information.

To provide students with some guidelines for being credible contributors to information through their social networking activities and Internet communications and participation.