Israel/Palestine Media Literacy - Misinformation

Variation of The Sift's [Navigating Misinformation about the Israel-Hamas War](#)

Overview

As current events unfold in Israel and Palestine, news literacy skills can help us find reliable information and sources and push back against harmful and hateful misinformation. This lesson plan can help students separate fact from fiction during this international crisis by learning about types of misinformation and applying RumorGuard's Five Factors of news credibility.

Grade Level

6-12

Time

Total: 55 minutes
Warm up (10 minutes), misinformation matching activity (20 minutes), RumorGuard 5 Factors jigsaw activity (20 minutes), wrap up (5 minutes)

Objectives

Students will be able to:
- Explain the impact of social media emotions and echo chambers on the spread of information.
- Name and define the five types of misinformation.
- Understand and utilize the RumorGuard 5 Factors to analyze a news source.

New Jersey Content Standards

9.4.5.IML.1: Evaluate digital sources for accuracy, perspective, credibility and relevance.
9.4.8.IML.2: Identify specific examples of distortion, exaggeration, or misrepresentation of information.
9.4.12.IML.2: Evaluate digital sources for timeliness, accuracy, perspective, credibility of the source, and relevance of information, in media, data, or other resources.
N.J.A.C. 6A:8-1.1(a)3: Twenty-first century themes and skills, including critical media literacy, integrated into all content standards areas.

Common Core Standards

RL/RI.X.8. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.

RL/RI.X.7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

W.X.7: Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

W.X.8 Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.

Resources Needed

- Student paper and pencils
- Checkology poster
- Student and instructor devices with internet access
- Is It Legit infographic
- Copies of Five Factors Worksheet

Warm Up

Ask students to take out their devices and open a social media feed. For five minutes, scroll through and make a list of any social media posts they see about Israel and Palestine. Then, as a class, talk about the following discussion questions to analyze their experiences:
- How did the social media posts make you feel?
- Were you inclined to share any of the posts you saw?

Misinformation Matching Activity

Review of the five types of misinformation as a class, using the Checkology poster as a handout, single printed poster, projected image, or image on class website (Appendix B). Quiz students on the types using this Kahoot.

RumorGuard Five Factors Jigsaw Activity

Split students into five groups and assign each group with one of the steps from the Is It Legit infographic, which can be printed and distributed, shared electronically, or projected. Ask each group to review their step and discuss what kinds of misinformation their technique could help reveal. Then have students check out a few of the examples below demonstrating how these techniques can be used to check the credibility of news related to Israel and Palestine:
- Fake headline pushes false Ukraine-Hamas connection
- No, Mel Gibson didn't post to Facebook about the 'end' of Israel
- Fake celebrity political endorsements spread over Israel-Hamas war
- False 'crisis actor' claims about Israel-Hamas war spread via out-of-context images
- AI generated content distorts events in Gaza
- Biden didn't call for new military draft. It's an AI video

- [Old videos resurface as false images of Israel-Hamas war protests](#)
- [Qatar threatens to cut off world's gas supply? Old video spreads falsehood](#)
- [False claim that CNN 'staged' war report uses altered audio](#)
- [Flood of falsehoods spreads after Hamas surprise attack](#)

Jigsaw the groups, then ask each group to select one of the social media posts that they identified earlier. Ask each one to use the skill they learned, as well as the information from the lesson on types of misinformation, to determine whether the post is credible. Have each group fill in the Five Factors Worksheet based on their discussion (Appendix B).

Wrap-Up

Ask students to review their lists and think back to your discussion. Review the following suggested discussion questions:
- When you scroll through social media, were you thinking about misinformation or the Five Factors?
- Were your reactions to the posts based in knowledge about misinformation?
- How can what you learned in this lesson help you respond more responsibly when you are using social media in the future?

Appendix A: Five Types of Misinformation

FIVE TYPES OF MISINFORMATION

SATIRE

THE PROBLEM WITH QUOTES FOUND ON THE INTERNET IS THAT THEY ARE OFTEN NOT TRUE.
-ABRAHAM LINCOLN
FAKE

Uses humor or exaggeration to critique or mock a person, organization or policy.

FALSE CONTEXT

Replying to
My Militia is also along the border making stops. We've already detained two full busses of illegals trying to vote. #redwave #Elections2018
FAKE

Takes an image, a quote or other piece of content and puts it into a new, false context to change its meaning.

IMPOSTER CONTENT

Donald J. Trump
Wow! Worst flood in 1000 years! Amazing! Experts say precedented! Flying to Texas to see it myself! Exciting! Then Missouri for huge rally!
FAKE
8383   16889
FAKE

Falsely uses a well-known name, brand or logo to fool people into believing that it is authentic content.

FABRICATED CONTENT

Myrtle Beach man who shot at Hurricane Florence dies after bullet ricochets
A 33-year old man from Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, has been confirmed as one of the first fatalities of Hurricane Florence after he ignored warnings and fired his weapon into the storm. According to a
FAKE

Is entirely made up and is designed to deceive you into thinking that it's real.

MANIPULATED CONTENT

FAKE

Makes changes in original material in an effort to deceive or create a false context (for example, an image where something has been added or deleted using photo editing tools).

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These misinformation types are adapted from the work of Claire Wardle at First Draft.

Developed by Moira Armstrong for Teaching Against Erasure

Appendix B: Five Factors Worksheet

The 5 Factors

Using the information you learned from Is It Legit? fill in this worksheet about your assigned piece of news. In each box, read the question, then fill in the empty circle with a check mark for yes or an X for no. Then fill in the box with information supporting your answer. Once you've filled in all the boxes, fill in the Snapshot section.

Snapshot

- Authenticity
- Source
- Evidence
- Context
- Reasoning

Authenticity

Is it authentic?

Source

Has it been posted or confirmed by a credible source?

Evidence

Is there evidence that proves the claim?

Context

Is the context accurate?

Reasoning

Is it based on solid reasoning?

Developed by Moira Armstrong for Teaching Against Erasure