

LATERAL READING: Can I confirm what I'm reading online through additional, valid, independent sources?

Lesson Goal:

Students will be able to verify information they find online by looking at multiple sources (i.e. "lateral reading").

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.8

Evaluate the argument and/or specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; identify false statements and fallacious reasoning.

SSS1.9-12.4

Gather relevant information from multiple sources representing a wide range of views while using the origin, authority, structure, context, and corroborative value of the sources to guide the selection.

SSS2.9-12.2

Evaluate the validity, reliability, and credibility of sources when researching an issue or event.

Overarching Question:

Can I verify what I'm reading online by looking at other reputable, authoritative sources?

Secondary Question:

Who's behind the information?

Key Vocabulary:

Lateral reading: the act of reading across multiple sources to verify information.

Vertical reading: using information contained within the news story or web page to preliminarily evaluate its quality.

Materials:

Computers/laptops/devices with internet access. Projector.

Content Objective:

Students will do a Google search and look at multiple sources to verify information they find online.

Pre-Assessment/Background Knowledge:

Show [SHEG video](#) (3:48) (Civic Online Reasoning) to demonstrate lateral reading as a strategy.

Activity:

- 1) Read the sample [post](#), article, or website. Google the headline, keywords or direct quotes from the sample or questionable post, then look for reputable news or other websites to either verify or discredit the original post.
- 2) Fill in the student handout sheet.

Next Lessons:

- 1) Who's behind the information? Check Wikipedia to learn about the person or organization that posted the article, information or website to see if they're a reputable source.
- 2) Check fact checking sites like Snopes, Politifact, etc. to see if the information is accurate.

Sources:

- Check Yourself with Lateral Reading: Crash Course Navigating Digital Information #3
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GoQG6Tin-1E>
- <https://cor.stanford.edu/videos/lateral-reading-video/> SHEG Civic Online Reasoning video on Lateral Reading
- Digital Survival Skills Module 3: Fact-Checking by Liz Crouse and Shawn Lee
<https://www.oercommons.org/courseware/lesson/68159/overview>