



Lesson 6.5 Is It Legit?

Module #6: The Crunch

It's crunch time for freshmen – this is usually their first experience with midterm exams! They need study skills, test preparation strategies, and time management. They also need real testimonials and advice on the do's and don'ts of studying, getting schoolwork done, taking grades seriously, and setting goals to create a positive high school experience.

Enduring Understandings

- I. **Academic success in high school requires the ability to properly study, research, take tests, manage time, and understand grading policies.**
- II. Never setting goals usually means never accomplishing them – it is important to set short-term and long-term goals to aim for high school success.

Essential Questions

- I. **What study skills, research guidelines, time management strategies, and test-taking skills will help me be more academically successful? (I)**
- II. What are effective short-term and long-term goals? (II)
- III. What is a grade point average and how do I calculate it? (I)

Lesson Objective(s)

Students will understand the importance of properly vetting websites when conducting research online.

Lesson 6.3

Lesson 6.4

Lesson 6.5

Lesson 6.6

Lesson 6.7

Directions:

1. Here's some alarming stats.
 - 80% of middle schoolers mistake sponsored content for real news.
 - 3 in 4 students can't distinguish real and fake news on Facebook.
 - Fewer than 1 in 3 students are skeptical of biased news sources.
2. Write the following statement on the whiteboard: "We now live in a world of uncurated information." Have a brief discussion with students about this statement and what it means. Emphasize the importance of recognizing the source and motive for everything we read and believe on line.
3. Distribute a "LEGIT" and "FAKE" card to each student. (Prior to the class, write the word "LEGIT" on index cards – one card per students; do the same with the word "FAKE.")
4. Read each of the statements below. Have students raise the appropriate card for each statement. Briefly discuss why each statement is "LEGIT" or "FAKE."
 - URL is strange; ends in .co (FAKE)
 - Has a current date (LEGIT)
 - Has a byline with name of author (LEGIT)
5. Review the following guidelines for evaluating the legitimacy of a website when conducting research or gathering information:
 - **Headline doesn't match the article (FAKE)**
 - **Fails to provide proof of claims (FAKE)**
 - **Comes from a respected news outlet (LEGIT)**
 - **URL ends in .gov or .edu (LEGIT)**
 - **Doesn't list an author (FAKE)**
 - **AUTHORITY:** Who is the author? What is their point of view? Can you find information about the author's credentials?
 - **PURPOSE:** Why was the source created? Who is the intended audience?
 - **PUBLICATION & FORMAT:** Where it published?
 - **RELEVANCE:** How is it relevant to your research?
 - **DATE OF PUBLICATION:** When was it written? Has it been updated?
 - **DOCUMENTATION:** Are sources cited?
 - **URL:** Look for .gov, .edu; beware of .co and .com

Source: International Society for Technology Education (ISTE)

Materials & Supplies

- Index Cards

Focus
Point

Information is everywhere on the web. But it's easy to be duped and fall for fake and unreliable information. In doing any research online, it's important to take a few extra steps to check the legitimacy of the website before accepting the information shared as true and reliable.

- Rather than just sharing guidelines for evaluating the legitimacy of a website, divide the class into small groups and assign each group a "guideline" to research further and share what they find with the class.

Resources
&
Extension