

Click wisely: recognizing fake news in politics, history and everyday life

Dr Ana-Maria Cătănuș

Introduction for the teacher

The lesson script is intended for students aged between 14 and 18. The subject matter discussed can be used in interdisciplinary classes in history, culture, media education and social sciences.

The material has been divided into three parts: the lesson scenario, a set of source materials and a worksheet of exercises to be done during the class, in a group or individually.

Instructions

The script contains five pieces of source material and a worksheet with exercises to be implemented during three lessons (45 mins). The lesson structure can be modified by the teacher to achieve specific objectives. Also, the source materials and worksheet can be adapted and used only partially according to the class requirements. The lesson will benefit from using the Internet (computer, multimedia projector and an interactive white board), including devices connected to the Internet (smartphones, tablets, etc).

Operational goals

The student is able to:

- understand and define the following concepts: disinformation, fake news, clickbait and conflicts of memory,
- acquire knowledge about the history of fake news,
- understand the concept of *damnatio memoriae* (condemnation of memory) and how it works in the contemporary world,

- develop critical thinking and verify the information before sharing it on social media,
- understand the implications of a cyber attack on an institution or country.

Teaching methods

- teacher-led discussion,
- group work,
- brainstorming,
- analysis of source material, texts and illustrations,
- metaplan,¹
- independent work with a set of exercises.

Teaching aids

- sets of exercises and source material available on the '[Hi-story lessons](#)' platform,
- board/flipcharts, felt pens/chalk,
- large paper sheets/Bristol board sheets, post-its,
- a computer with internet access and a multimedia projector and an interactive white board.

Before the lesson

Ask the students to read the essay titled '[Disinformation and Fake News Versus Interpretational Disputes in History and Conflicts of Memory](#)'.

¹ One of the activation methods used during class; it involves poster making by the discussion/debate participants. The poster represents a graphic summary of the debate (based on Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metaplan> [accessed 24 October 2022]).