

The Trustworthiness of a Zombie -- News Literacy Lesson

Written By: Kaitlin Liguori – Stony Brook University Grad Student –
Stony Brook, NY

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AIM

- How do we know what to trust?

Objectives

- SWBAT identify the characteristics of a trustworthy story and articulate opinions using news literacy vocabulary.
- SWBAT evaluate sources using news literacy vocabulary of “IMVA/IN” to avoid conflict.
- SWBAT use IMVA/IN to make decisions on what they post online.

News literacy terms to be incorporated:

- IMVA/IN
- Evaluating Sources

Summarizing The Lesson

1. Students are separated in to groups and each watch a different video regarding the “Zombie Attack” in Miami. Students watch and confer as to the reliability of the report. Each group presents their findings, indicating why the report either is or isn’t reliable.
 - a. **Video 1:** <http://www.ibtimes.com/articles/346139/20120528/miami-man-eating-face-nose-eyeballs.htm>
 - b. **Video 2:**
<http://www.myfoxboston.com/video?clipId=7411477&autoStart=true>
 - c. **Video 3:** <http://abcnews.go.com/US/zombie-apocalypse-miami-face-eating-attack-911-calls/story?id=16481769>
 - d. **Video 4:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mrK3WAg017E>
 - e. **Video 5:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OAvt9rzJqsk>
2. As discussion ensues, teacher incites debate over the characteristics of a trustworthy source (relating back to Aim.) After class discussion of report reliability, students go back into small groups and come up with a short checklist of what makes something reliable. Once finished, a representative from each small group is invited to write their group’s list on the board.

3. Introduce IMVA/IN vocabulary to students using their lists as a jumping off point so that a shared vocabulary is created.
4. Students use IMVA/IN to independently evaluate the article by the Huffington post in which the CDC's statement about zombies not being real is described and analyzed. Reactions are shared.
 - a. **Article:** http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/06/01/cdc-denies-zombies-existence_n_1562141.html
5. Why was this article published? Students discuss the consequences of posting unreliable, inaccurate or incomplete information.
 - a. **Video:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iROYzrm5SBM>

Let's switch gears a little bit...

6. Has anyone ever been the new kid at school or the new person at work? Say a new kid in town comes to school wearing a full-on tie, because that's what he's used to. Someone posts on facebook or twitter, "New kid is totally gay." And then that get re-tweeted... and re-tweeted... and re-posted... and re-posted. The next day, the new boy at your school doesn't understand why everyone thinks he's gay.
7. Look at what happens here:
 - a. **Video:** <http://www.nbc.com/the-office/video/gossip/1158389>
8. How does this happen? Students discuss reliability of sources as it relates to rumor-spreading, and responsibility.

Outcome

Moral of the story: What you put online is out there forever. There are no erasers in cyberspace. You can't control what people do with the information, so be careful and be responsible