Lesson Plan  
4. Trusting Journalism

short line

# Summary

1. Subject(s): news articles, journalism, fact-checking, well-rounded sources of information\*
2. Topic or Unit of Study: Journalism, misinformation, and effects
3. Grade/Level: 8th Grade
4. **Learning Objectives:** 
   1. Students will understand how journalism works
   2. Students will differentiate between opinionated/bias vs well-informed journalism
   3. Students will learn how to use fact-checking to be well informed
5. Time Allotment: 30-45 minutes

\*To create this module, our team used outside resources to build a comprehensive course. You will find footnotes were we obtained information from other sources and can further help guide the course. Additionally, there are citations throughout the notes section of the PowerPoint.

# Implementation

## Learning Context

[[1]](#footnote-0)For this module we used Trusting News as our primary source.

1. What is journalism?
   1. Good vs bad Journalism
   2. Who are Journalists? - Trusting News
   3. Opinion pieces v. investigative pieces
2. Bias
   1. How News Works
      1. What are their intentions
   2. Ethics and values

Reading Rainbow Tip: The Trusting News link leads to the full list of examples divided by subject, we have included our choices in the PowerPoint but feel free to find ones that you feel is most applicable to your class!

1. Fact-checking
   1. Websites/resources
      1. <https://www.factcheck.org/>
      2. <https://www.politifact.com/>
         1. Bloggers
            1. <https://www.politifact.com/personalities/blog-posting/>
      3. Reverse image search - <https://tineye.com/>

## Procedure

1. Direct Instruction - Google Slides presentation
2. Guided Practice + Independent Practice
   1. Option 1: BBC Reporting Game - divide the class into groups and see which one can find the most fake news articles.
      1. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-8760dd58-84f9-4c98-ade2-590562670096> (News Module) - about 30 minutes
   2. Option 2: Put students in groups and give them a newspaper have them determine what is opinion and what is investigative written pieces.

Reading Rainbow Tip: Choose whichever activity works best for the time you have, both are equally fun and educational.

1. Closing

# Materials & Resources

1. Instructional Materials:
   1. Powerpoint - optional
   2. Trustingnews - <https://trustingnews.org/search/>
2. Resources:
   1. Fact Checking: <https://www.factcheck.org/>
   2. Politifact: <https://www.politifact.com/>
      1. Politifact on blogging: <https://www.politifact.com/personalities/blog-posting/>
   3. Reverse Image Search: <https://tineye.com/>
   4. BBC Game: <https://www.bbc.com/news/school-report-43391188>
      1. Game Itself: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-8760dd58-84f9-4c98-ade2-590562670096>

1. Trusting News: <https://trustingnews.org/search/> [↑](#footnote-ref-0)