A logo for a tv show

Description automatically generated

Library Extension Project

# Activity: Fact Check This

Created by: Megan Goedge, Petoskey District Library, Julianne Smith, Ypsilanti District Library and Sue Ellen Christian, Western Michigan University

Description: Activity/game

Target audience: Teens

Objectives: To get teens thinking about what they’re reading on social media and to stop and think twice before clicking or believing!

Materials needed: Computer or device with internet/Wi-Fi to get access to this free online meme generator: <https://imgflip.com/memegenerator>

Laminated meme images with space for erasable marker clickbait headlines, or simply print and complete paper versions. (See Printables)

Suggested runtime: 30 minutes

Adaptation for adults: Offer a mini session about media literacy in general. It’s important to know your audience. Seniors might fall for a Medicare or health insurance clickbait, but a teen likely wouldn’t.

**Chain letters and emails**: Don’t click on an email from someone you do not know! The email could contain a virus that embeds itself on your computer once you open the email or attachment.

**Health insurance scams** such as an email sent that looks official and is asking for your Social Security number or credit card information to verify your identity or secure your account from fraud. (This is the fraud!) One way to check this is to hover your cursor over the email sender’s address – it won’t match the company name they claim to be representing.

**Text notifications:** Never click spam notifications sent as a text message to your phone such as: “Your warranty is expired.” If you are concerned, call the company directly.

**Phone-related AI scams:** A common one is the fake “kidnapping” of a loved one. An AI-generated voice mimicking a loved one’s voice on a call is urgently seeking money. If this happens, ask the caller about a private scenario that only your loved one would know, or have a pre-determined code word that is used to verify identity within your family unit. Another option is send someone near you, if possible, to call police for assistance in determining if your loved one supposedly at risk is safe at home by calling them directly. Also, iPhone users can share their location, which is verifiable when you tap the contact name.

Unique Space or Personnel Needs: A study room or meeting room where teens can collaborate and get loud; one staff person to lead activity; try with a built-in audience instead of a planned program

Resources:

Good and funny article from Vox about clickbait: <https://www.vox.com/the-goods/2019/5/8/18537279/chum-box-weird-sponsored-links-gut-doctor>

Wonder Media Library’s [Fact Check This! page](https://www.wondermedialibrary.com/fact-check-this/) with games and learning

*“Can you believe it?: H*ow to spot fake news and find the facts” by Joyce Grant (book)

*“Killer underwear invasion!*: How to spot fake news, disinformation and lies” by Elise Gravel (book)

*“What the fact?”* by Seema Yasmin (book)

[The Emotional Appeal of Clickbait Headlines](mailto:https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=5aa947f1-c37f-38cf-8ec4-b3289d3519a7) - between Entertainment and Deception -- article

Click me...! A scholarly [article](mailto:https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=aa781b39-471e-339b-87a9-3cdcc51977c8) (that is readable!) examining the influence of clickbait on user engagement in social media and the role of digital nudging.

An [example](https://www.semrush.com/blog/what-is-clickbait/) of checking your facts to avoid a scam.

[Another](http://www.wcpo.com/money/consumer/dont-waste-your-money/fake-postage-stamps-are-scamming-holiday-card-senders) example of checking facts to avoid a postage stamp scam.

Printables: See “Fact Check This Printable” in Resources.

A yellow and brown logo

Description automatically generated A logo for a museum

Description automatically generated A blue and black logo

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