

"The Internet Starts with I"  
Lesson Plan | Middle School

# I Share Responsibly

**Lesson Goal:**

I know what fake news is and know the skills needed to recognize fake news.

**Estimated Time:**

25-35 minutes

**Materials and Resources:**

Teacher should review the [Top 5 Questions about Media Literacy and Fake News](https://bit.ly/2N513Rr) (<https://bit.ly/2N513Rr>) and the [ConnectSafely Parent and Educator Guide to Media Literacy & Fake News](https://bit.ly/38O9uJn) (<https://bit.ly/38O9uJn>) in preparation for this lesson. Specifically relevant are the definitions of media literacy and fake news.

**Activity Procedure:**

1. Students should start by reading the Top 5 Questions about Media Literacy and Fake News. Once they have read it, check for understanding by discussing the following questions with them:

- What is media literacy?
- Should media literacy be taught in schools? Why?
- How might your media literacy skills be important for you as a student? As a future voter? As a future professional?
- What is fake news?
- What are the reasons people choose to create and share fake news that are mentioned in the reading?

2. Heroes and Villains: Students will work in pairs to create a "Media Literacy Hero" and a "Fake News Villain."

- Assign students to pairs or threes.
- Have each small group of students create a table similar to the one below on a paper or digital poster and fill it in:

	Media Literacy Hero	Fake News Villian
3 Characteristics	1. 2. 3.	1. 2. 3.
Name		
Draw a colorful logo to be emblazoned on his/her chestplate or cape		

3. Ask students to share out their hero and villain names and logos. They should explain the characteristics of each as they show what they've created.

4. Close the activity by asking students how they can use the characteristics/skills demonstrated by their Media Literacy Hero when they see a Tweet, video clip, or clickable headline that seems suspicious or untrue. Invite them to comment and share their ideas. For strategies to share with your students, see the section titled Teaching kids what to do when they see falsehoods shared online in ConnectSafely's Parent and Educator Guide to Media Literacy and Fake News.

**Extension to Parents** Share what your students learned and encourage parents to reinforce these concepts at home. See [saferinternetday.us/lesson-plans](http://saferinternetday.us/lesson-plans) (<http://bit.ly/2Y84vgF>) for a suggested email template you can adapt.



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