**CLASS 11**

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| **TOPIC** | Media literacy and the safe use of digital media: Social media and fake news | |
| **LEARNING CONTENT - DETAILED CHARACTERISTICS** | This class focusses on one of the important aspects of media pedagogy, namely, how to use the media in the safest possible way. It connects media literacy and the competences it involves with some of the most common problems children and adults encounter in their everyday use of digital media and the internet such as:   * Social media and fake news * Cyberbullying * Online relationships and sexuality * Gaming (violence in video games, addiction)   All these issues are discussed from the point of view of children and parents since media pedagogy is primarily aimed at helping teachers and parents focus on media education and its products - acquired knowledge, skills, attitudes, competences - and how to improve the media literacy among the members of contemporary society. | |
| **KEY WORDS** | Safe use of media; social media; fake news; privacy on the Internet | |
| **SUGGESTED TOOLS** | Power-point presentation  Videos and readings that can serve as examples for discussion  Discussion | |
| **TIPS / METHODOLOGICAL REMARKS**  **(if applicable)** | The “flipped classroom” method is used. Students are assigned readings and videos to watch and then a class discussion is carried out. All steps are detailed in the description | |
| **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CLASSES** | **STEP 1** | The students are assigned to read the power-point presentation and think of possible questions to discuss. |
| **STEP 2** | The students are assigned to find examples of fake news, and the way one uses the social media safely, connecting them to the components of media literacy.  See Work Card |
| **STEP 3** | Discussion: the students come to class and discuss the way social media function and how media literacy helps us to differentiate “fake” from “real” and how these skills can be enhanced in members of society. They ask questions based on their getting acquainted with the presentation of the lecturer. |
| **STEP 4** | The lecturer clarifies the different points of view and makes students critically assess the impact of social media in the contemporary world. |
| **STEP 5** | Learners discuss the different examples they have found illustrating the way social media function and the role media literacy plays in keeping us safe. |

**ADDITIONAL MATERIAL - WORK CARD 1**

**WORK CARD 1 – MEDIA LITERACY AND THE SOCIAL MEDIA**

**Task 1:** Think of all the social media you are aware of and you use daily and make a social media quiz about their function. Find five people – a child up to 11 years of age, a teenager (up to 20 years of age), an adult (20 to 40 years of age), a middle-aged person (40-60) and a senior person (above 60) and check what they know about these social media giving them the quiz you have prepared.

### **EXAMPLE:**

### FACEBOOK

Can you retrace your entire search history on Facebook?

* Yes, Facebook keeps track of everything.
* No, not if you regularly delete your search history.
* No, Facebook is obliged to delete all data regularly.

**Additional Information:**

Facebook is by far the most famous network. Messenger is the messaging app linked to Facebook.

You can always download a copy of your Facebook information. You can download a complete copy or you can select only types of information and date ranges that you want. Downloading your information is a password-protected process that only you will have access to.

### SNAPCHAT

How long does your photo sent via Snapchat remain online?

* 1 to 10 seconds
* You can choose this yourself
* Forever

**Additional Information:**

With Snapchat, you can quickly share photos and videos from your smartphone. After a while, the photos and videos disappear from the recipient’s phone. However, users can always save a photo by taking a screenshot. So, think before you ‘snap’ a sexy photo, because it's not that safe!

In Snapchat (via ‘My Story’), you can also keep a photo available for 24 hours. The 'Snap Map' shows where you are and also your friends’ location. You and your friends can also share your location with each other and see what’s going on around you. You can switch off this feature.

### YOUTUBE

Do you know what you can do with this app?

* Watch videos
* Also post videos
* Also live-stream

**Additional Information:**

YouTube is a website where users can upload, view, edit and share videos.

Here, you can find music, games, makeup, funny videos, live streams, demos, etc.

On YouTube Kids, young children can safely watch videos. As a parent, you can adjust the settings yourself (e.g. time-limit). Here too, (child-friendly) advertisements are shown in between.

### INSTAGRAM

Do you know what kind of app this is?

* Video calling app
* App to share photos/videos
* Online shop

**Additional Information:**

Instagram is an incredibly popular app for sharing photos. You can easily edit your photos with a filter and thus give your images an extra ‘artistic’ touch. Just like on Snapchat, you can send photos that disappear or stay visible for 24 hours (with 'Your story').

Companies and news channels are also active on Instagram.

### SWARM

Do you know what kind of app this is?

* Location app
* Online shop
* Microblog

**Additional Information:**

Swarm is an app used for checking in at locations. By checking in anytime anywhere, you can let people know where you are. You can also check if there are friends nearby.

Swarm is also playing: by checking in you can earn points and compete against your friends.

For those who really need no privacy at all ;-)

### PINTEREST

Do you know what kind of app this is?

* Online shop
* Podcast app
* Online pin board

**Additional Information:**

Pinterest is an online pin board. You can pin images found on the web and add them to one of your own pin boards (mood board). It is used mainly for creative ideas.

In general, these pins and boards are public and available to anyone viewing on Pinterest. Other users can follow you. Also, possible: other users reuse or ‘repin’ your image to their own Pinterest board.

### TIKTOK

Do you know what kind of app this is?

* App to watch musicals
* Playback app
* Music streaming app

**Additional Information:**

TikTok is an app with which you can create music videos. You can also watch music videos created by others. Popular songs are re-enacted and posted online.

### WHATSAPP

Do you know what kind of app this is?

* News app
* Location app
* Messaging app

**Additional Information:**

WhatsApp is an app used to exchange messages, files and photos.

It is a free messaging service via the Internet. It is also used for group conversations.

**Task 2.** On the basis of the results from your survey, comparing the answers from the different age groups suggest a possible time scale for starting teaching media literacy.

**ADDITIONAL MATERIAL - WORK CARD 2**

**WORK CARD 2 – MEDIA LITERACY AND THE SOCIAL MEDIA**

**Task 1.** On the basis of your experience, say which of the social media is most likely to distort information and find an example to discuss in class.

Here are some examples from Selnes, F. N. (2023). Fake news on social media: Understanding teens’ (Dis)engagement with news. *Media, Culture & Society*, *0*(0).  <https://doi.org/10.1177/01634437231198447>, that can help you in your search:

Unsubstantiated claims about the origin of coronavirus sparked attacks on Asian-Americans ([BBC, 2021](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/01634437231198447#bibr3-01634437231198447)) while telecom towers got damaged, and engineers assaulted following claims that linked 5G technology to Covid-19 ([Hern, 2020](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/01634437231198447" \l "bibr16-01634437231198447)). A man died and his wife got hospitalized in the US, after ingesting Chloroquine following rhetoric on remedies for Covid-19 ([Neuman, 2020](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/01634437231198447" \l "bibr34-01634437231198447)). A teenager in this study contracted coronavirus thrice despite sniffing tobacco as had been (mis)informed on social media. Platforms such as Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, and YouTube are a significant part of teenagers’ media repertoire and are imperative for news, but it is also where teenagers encounter fake news ([Medietilsynet, 2022](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/01634437231198447" \l "bibr27-01634437231198447); [Newman, 2022](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/01634437231198447" \l "bibr35-01634437231198447)).

**Task 2.** Make a step-by-step guide for coping with fake news.