

Becoming a Smart Digital Citizen



Student Manual

Prepared by
Association for Civic Activism and
Mobilization - Effect

Supported by:
The Embassy of the Czech Republic in
North Macedonia.

Welcome to the Digital World



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Hi there!

You're growing up in a world where videos, memes, TikToks, and stories travel faster than ever. But have you ever stopped to wonder — who made that content, and why? Media literacy is all about learning how to read between the lines, think critically, and protect yourself in this digital jungle.

This manual is your companion on that journey. It's based on the Future Fluent 2.0 project and will help you become smarter, safer, and more confident when using the internet.

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INTRO



The Golden Rule: Stop. Think. Check.

Every time you see a shocking post, trending video, or viral rumor:

- **STOP** before you react or share
- **THINK** about where it came from and why it was created
- **CHECK** if it's true using trusted sources

This rule is the foundation of being media literate. If you remember only one thing from this guide, let it be this!

STEP 1



What Is Misinformation?

Misinformation is when wrong or misleading content spreads — sometimes by accident, sometimes on purpose (which we call disinformation).

Examples:

- Fake celebrity death announcements
- Photos taken out of context
- Health advice from unverified sources

Why It Matters: Misinformation can create fear, hatred, and confusion. It can even influence elections or public health decisions.

Activity: Search a popular myth and investigate whether it's true. Use fact-checking websites like Snopes, PolitiFact, or local media checkers.

STEP 2



Understanding the Message.

Every video, meme, or post is carefully made to influence you.

Things to Ask:

- Who made this?
- What do they want me to believe?
- What emotions are they trying to trigger?

Exercise: Take a screenshot of a news post. Circle the words, pictures, or emojis that are trying to make you feel something. Discuss with friends.

STEP 3



Is This Source Legit?

Not all websites are equal. Some are designed to mislead or just make money from clicks.

Quick Source Check:

- Can you find the author?
- Is it from a known media outlet?
- Are other sites reporting the same thing?

Tool Tip: Use Google Reverse Image Search to check if a photo is real.

STEP 4



Your Digital Footprint.

What you post today could still be around in 10 years.

Think before you:

- Share personal info
- Post about others
- Send pictures or private messages

Quiz Yourself: Would I be okay if my family or future boss saw this?

Pro Tip: Check your privacy settings every few months.

STEP 5



Be a Creator, Not Just a Scroller.

Creating your own media is powerful, but with power comes responsibility.

Media Ethics:

- Don't copy without credit
- Don't spread hate or lies
- Use your voice to raise awareness or positivity

Challenge: Create a short video or poster about a cause you care about. Use only verified facts.

STEP 6



How Social Media Tricks You.

Did you know algorithms decide what you see online?

What You Should Know:

- Platforms show you what keeps you scrolling
- You're often seeing content that matches your views (echo chambers)

Hack the Feed:

- Follow diverse voices
- Search for facts outside your feed
- Don't fall for clickbait

Your **Media Toolbox**



Use these tools to become a savvy media detective:

- **Fact-checking sites:** Snopes, FactCheck.org, Truthmeter.mk
- **Fake image detectors:** InVID, Google Reverse Image
- **Digital safety checkers:** CyberWise, Internet Matters
- **Privacy settings review tools** on your devices

Wrapping It Up: Be Future Fluent



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You are not just a consumer of media — you're a participant in a global conversation. What you choose to believe, say, and share shapes the world.

By applying what you've learned in this manual, you'll:

- Avoid falling for fake content
- Make smarter decisions online
- Respect others and protect your own digital identity

The internet can be a confusing place — but with the right tools, it can also be empowering. Stay curious, ask questions, and always remember:

Stop. Think. Check.

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Thank you!

Thanks for using the Future Fluent Student Manual! We hope you feel more confident and informed in navigating your digital world.

You're the future and now, you're fluent too.

Learn more and explore interactive tools at www.futurefluent.info



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