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TO IMPROVE
YOUR NEWS
LITERACY
SKILLS

PART 1



EXERCISE 1 GROUP DISCUSSION

LEAD-IN QUESTIONS

1.

What does the term *literacy* mean?

2.

What kinds of literacies are there?

3.

Why is being literate so important in our society today?

EXERCISE 2 VIDEO: REAL NEWS VS. FAKE NEWS

Watch the video twice and after reading the statement discuss the following questions.

<https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/4396911.html#player-set-time=1.283371>

Throughout history powerful statesmen, rulers and world leaders have been afraid of information and tried to prevent people from having access to it.

1. What can be some of the reasons?
2. What can be the good results of true information reaching the people? Can you give examples from recent history?
3. In what ways have advances in media technology influenced the way we receive and share information?
4. What are the various roles of news in our lives?

EXERCISE 3 VOCABULARY BUILDER

Click on the link below and match the words with the definitions.

You can also try to come up with definitions on your own.

<https://learningapps.org/display?v=pdh8tckca20>

block

free press

atrocities

invention

to be held
accountable

execute

revolutionize

reliable

fuel
(verb)

uplifting

EXERCISE 4 DEBATE

“This media environment makes it important for us to be able to recognize reliable information.”

The above-mentioned statement from the video footage suggests that with the appearance of social media and the advance of technology it has become more difficult for people today to obtain or filter out reliable information.

Break into two groups. Each group has circa 5 minutes to collect arguments and then you can start the debate. Each party should be given an equal amount of time to make their case afterwards.

Group A:
You agree with the statement. Come up with as many arguments as you can to support it.

Group B:
You disagree with the statement, so bring up as many counter-arguments as possible to make your point.

*The video included in this lesson is from Voice of America's Learning English website.

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