



Fake News and Post-truth: Media Literacy Education for English Language Learners

ELTAM DAYS 2021 – PLENARY 1



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LANGUAGE
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Home > News > Donald Trump Says The Earth Is Flat

News

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Donald Trump Says The Earth Is Flat

By **Eric Plair, CNN** - October 31, 2016

10281 54

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MOST POPULAR

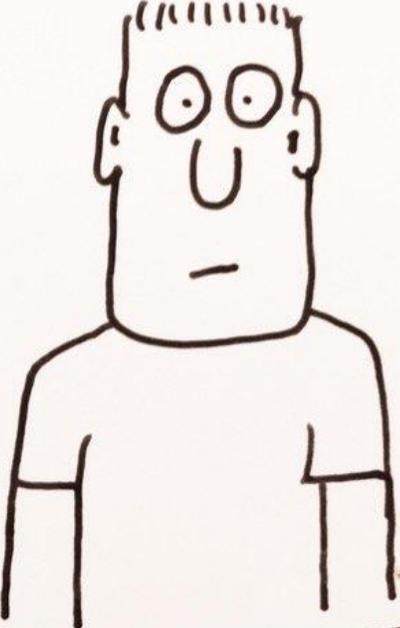


New Salvia Pinball Barcade
Opening In Phoenix AZ - 1,000

post-truth

ADJECTIVE

Relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief

Truth	Post-truth
<p>I think therefore I am</p> 	<p>I believe therefore I'm right!</p>  <p>shovel</p>

Montenegro needs critical thinking citizens

19/11/2018  601

Podgorica, (MINA) – Montenegro needs citizens who are able to assess information not only in accordance with their beliefs, but who will also use critical thinking to question and control the given information, said professor Bozena Jelusic.

According to her, media literacy is important in the fight against fake news since it is inseparable from critical thinking and ability to question what is presented as the truth.

The Professor said that, following the 2016 US elections, fake news phenomenon has been observed as a global problem, and the European Commission has emphasized the key role of media literacy in preparing citizens for critical thinking, while information and media literacy is now on the list of competences necessary for the 21st century.

Jelusic said that the problem of fake news and pollution of media exists in Montenegro as well, and added that the subject of media literacy should also be introduced to elementary schools.

What is media literacy?

Two definitions:

“Media Literacy is the ability to access, analyze, evaluate and create media in a variety of forms.”
(Aspen Media Literacy Leadership Institute 1992)

“Media Literacy is a 21st century approach to education. It provides a framework to access, analyze, evaluate, create and participate with messages in a variety of forms — from print to video to the Internet. Media literacy builds an understanding of the role of media in society as well as essential skills of inquiry and self-expression necessary for citizens of a democracy.”
(Center for Media Literacy)

<https://www.medialit.org/media-literacy-definition-and-more>

Media Literacy Education in the English Language Classroom

- An opportunity and a responsibility for English teachers
- Helps develop critical thinking skills and higher-order thinking skills
- Equips students with important life skills
- Keeps our children SAFE online
- Evaluating and creating media improves LANGUAGE and COMMUNICATION skills





CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

The Cambridge Life Competencies Framework

Critical Thinking



Introductory Guide
for Teachers and
Educational Managers

Better
Learning

Defining CRITICAL THINKING Competencies

Critical thinking refers to higher levels of thinking that learners need to enable them to think effectively and rationally about what they want to do and what they believe is the best action. It consists of identifying links between ideas, analysing points of view and evaluating arguments, supporting evidence, reasoning and conclusions.

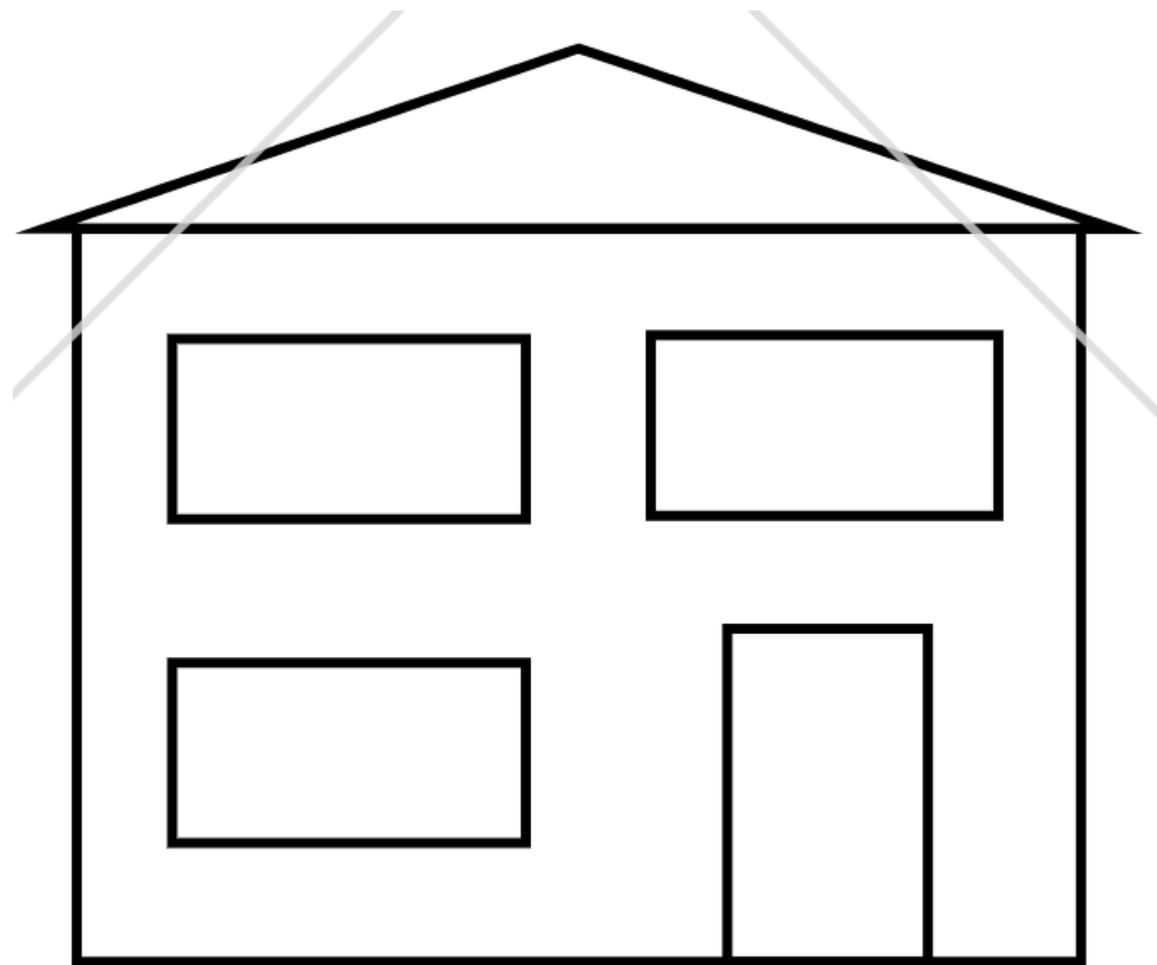
We have identified three core areas within the area of Critical Thinking:

- **Understanding and analysing links between ideas** refers to a learner's ability to organise information from different sources through identifying patterns. Analysing information through comparison and contrast enhances a learner's understanding of the content and this understanding, coupled with comprehensive collection of information, helps them build up critical evaluation.
- **Evaluating ideas, arguments and options** is related to a learner's ability to judge which arguments, ideas or options they can rely on and which they should be sceptical about. This helps learners to identify and prioritise problems they are facing in education or at the workplace and consider ways to solve them. When facing more than one problem, they are able to see the links between them and identify the real cause. Mastering this core area helps learners establish an analytical framework to deploy strong arguments and advance their own points of view.
- **Synthesising ideas and information** is an on-going process which requires learners to construct different aspects of their ideas drawing from the ideas of others. It involves creative thinking that helps them generate new ideas.

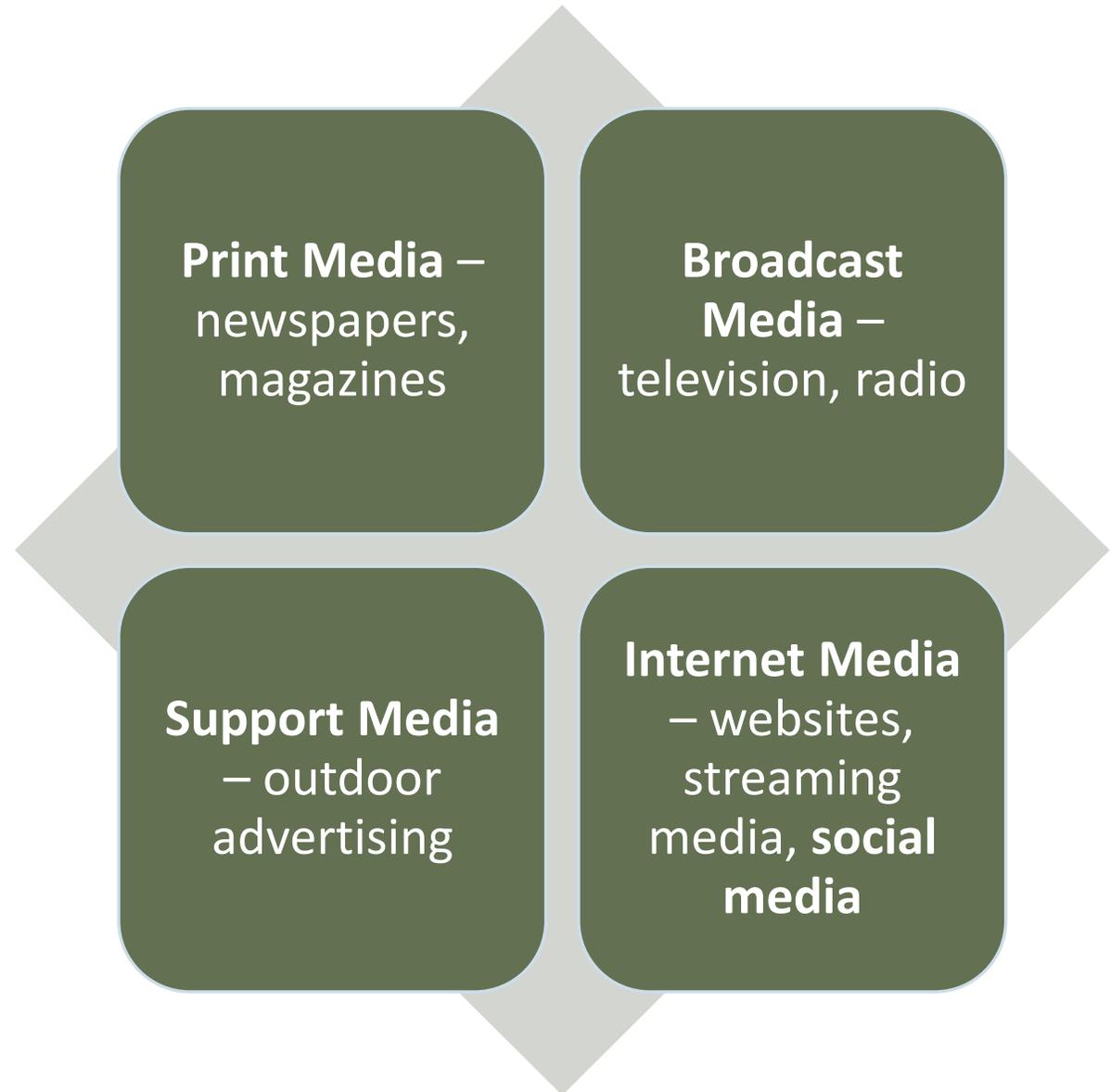
[https://languagerearch.cambridge.org/images/Language_Research/CamFLiC/CLCF_Critical_Thinking.pdf](https://languageresearch.cambridge.org/images/Language_Research/CamFLiC/CLCF_Critical_Thinking.pdf)



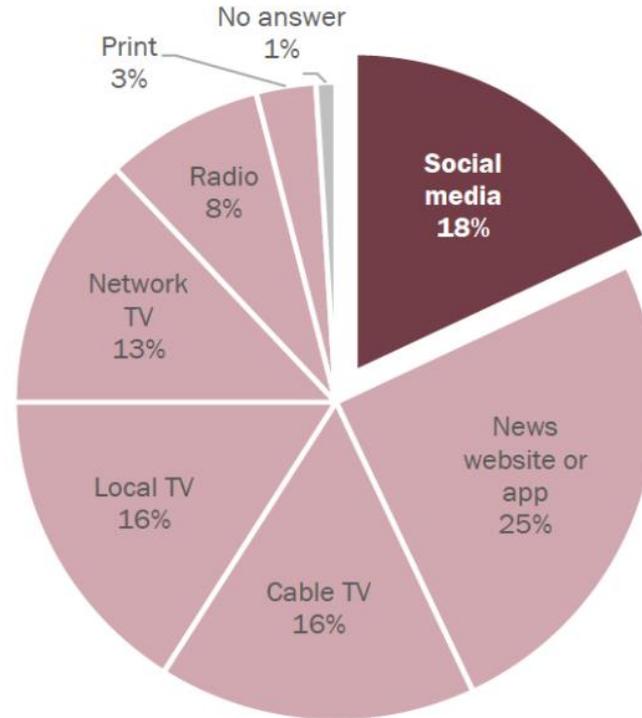
Take out a
sheet of
paper and
a pen!



Types of Media



% of U.S. adults who say the most common way they get political and election news is ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019.
"Americans Who Mainly Get Their News on Social Media Are Less Engaged, Less Knowledgeable"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

10 Types/Purposes of Social Media

- ❑ **Social networks**—Connect with people; **Examples:** [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#)
- ❑ **Media sharing networks**—Share photos, videos, and other media; **Examples:** [Instagram](#), [Snapchat](#), [YouTube](#)
- ❑ **Discussion forums**—Share news and ideas; **Examples:** [reddit](#), [Quora](#), [Digg](#)
- ❑ **Bookmarking/content curation**—Discover, save, and share new content; **Examples:** [Pinterest](#), [Flipboard](#)
- ❑ **Consumer review networks**—Find and review businesses; **Examples:** [Yelp](#), [Zomato](#), [TripAdvisor](#)
- ❑ **Blogging and publishing networks**—Publish content online; **Examples:** [WordPress](#), [Tumblr](#), [Medium](#)
- ❑ **Interest-based networks**—Share interests and hobbies; **Examples:** [Goodreads](#), [Houzz](#), [Last.fm](#)
- ❑ **Social shopping networks**—Shop online; **Examples:** [Polyvore](#), [Etsy](#), [Fancy](#)
- ❑ **Sharing economy networks**—Trade goods and services; **Examples:** [Airbnb](#), [Uber](#), [Taskrabbit](#)
- ❑ **Anonymous social networks**—Communicate anonymously; **Examples:** [Whisper](#), [Ask.fm](#), [After School](#)

The logo for the Center for Media Literacy (CML) features the letters 'CML' in a large, white, bold, sans-serif font against a dark blue background. A thin white horizontal line is positioned below the letters.

Mission: Media Literacy

Center for Media Literacy

Educator resources and reference documentation to help YOU integrate media literacy education into your curriculum and/or classes.

Includes a lesson plan and activity archive and a reading room, with a huge searchable library and archive.

Five Core Concepts for Media Literacy

1. All media messages are constructed
2. Media messages are constructed using a creative language with its own rules
3. Different people experience the same media message differently
4. Media have embedded values and points of view
5. Most media messages are organized to gain profit and/or power

Five Key Questions of Media Literacy

1. Who created this message?
2. What creative techniques are used to attract my attention?
3. How might different people understand this message differently than me?
4. What values, lifestyles and points of view are represented in, or omitted from, this message?
5. Why is this message being sent?

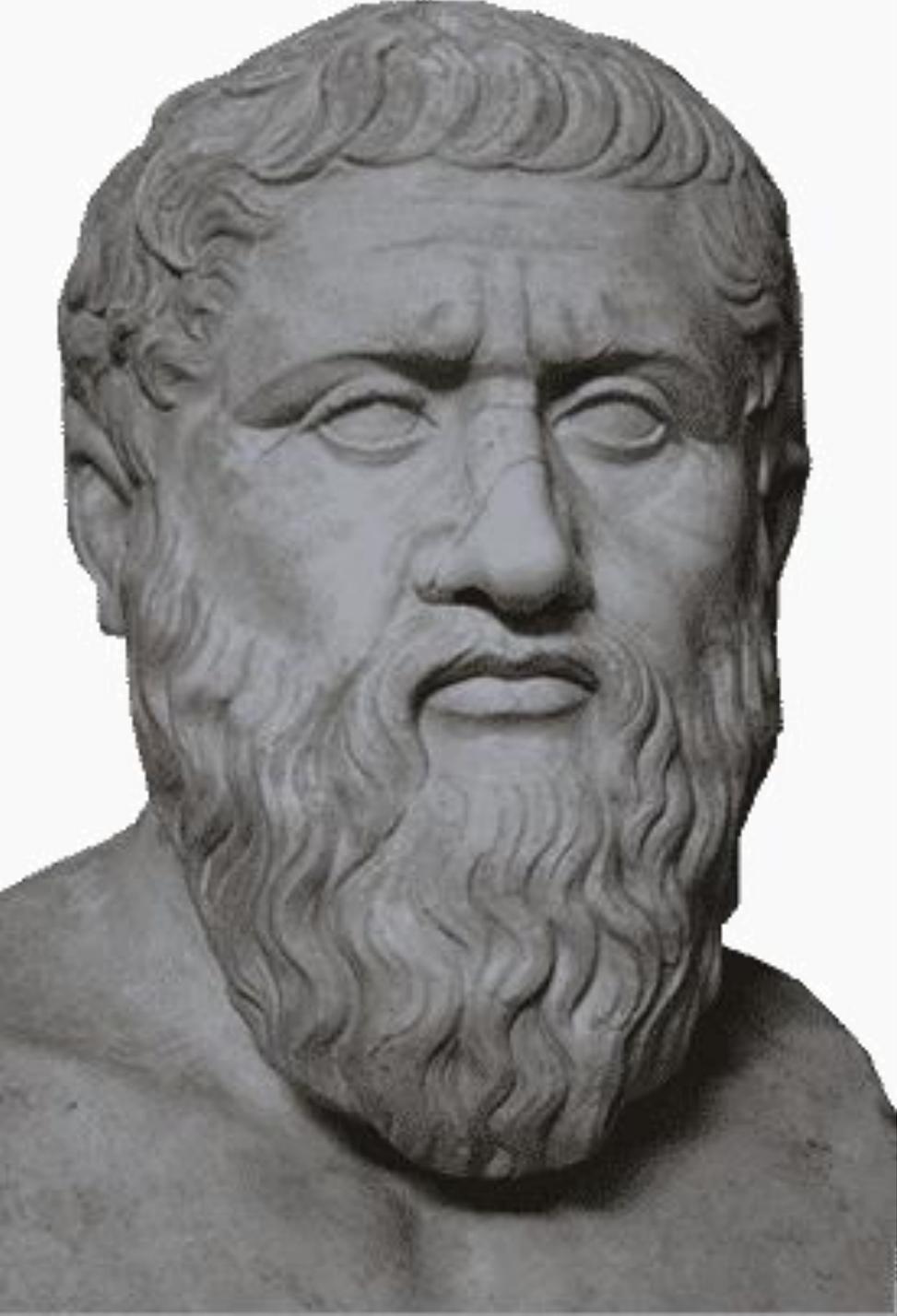
WHEN READING THE NEWS...



STOP
QUESTION
CHECK
DECIDE



What is
one thing
you
believe, but
you can't
prove?



So, what *is* knowledge???

Plato defines it as...

Justified, true
belief

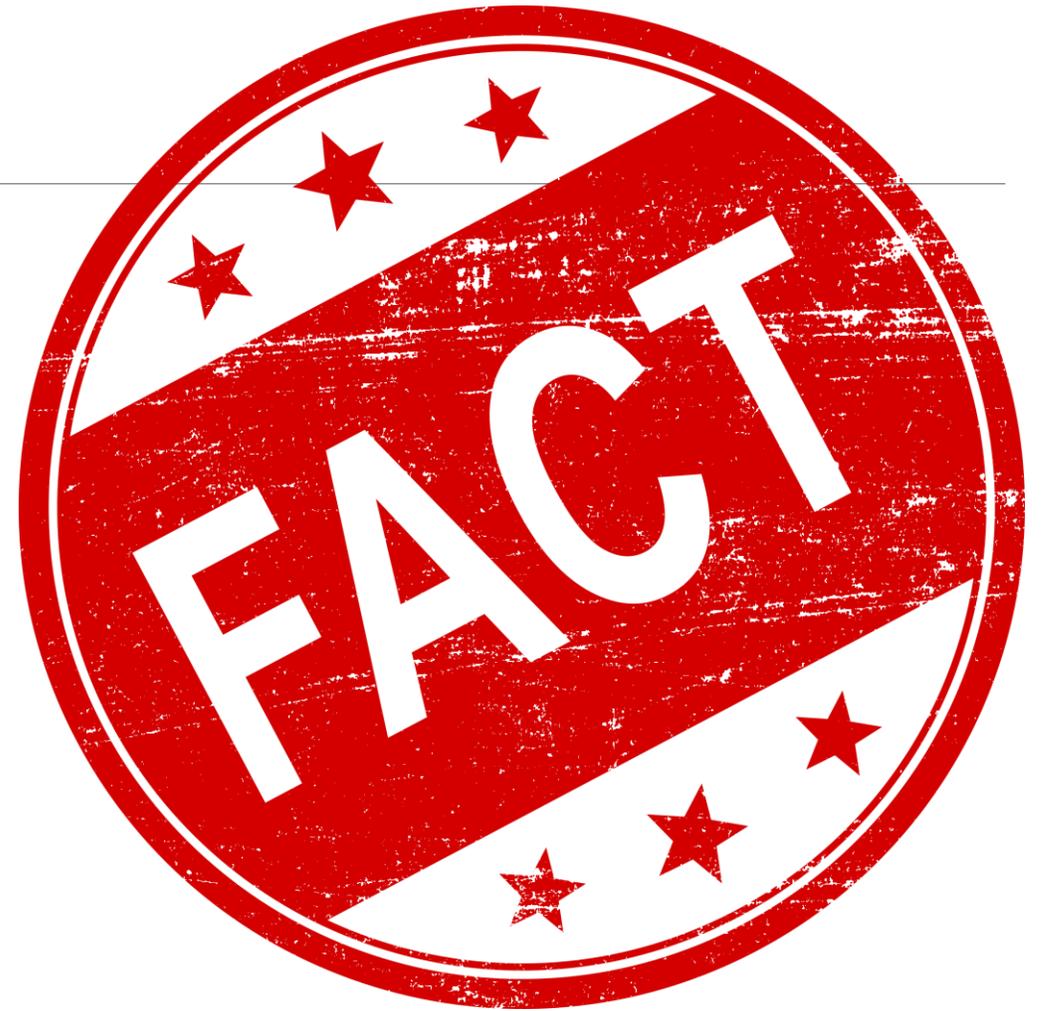
JUSTIFIED

Knowledge
requires
evidence.



TRUE

Knowledge
requires a **basis**
in reality.



BELIEF

Knowledge
requires a
**personal or
shared
acceptance.**



KNOWLEDGE CLAIMS

The sky is blue.

$5+5 = 10$.

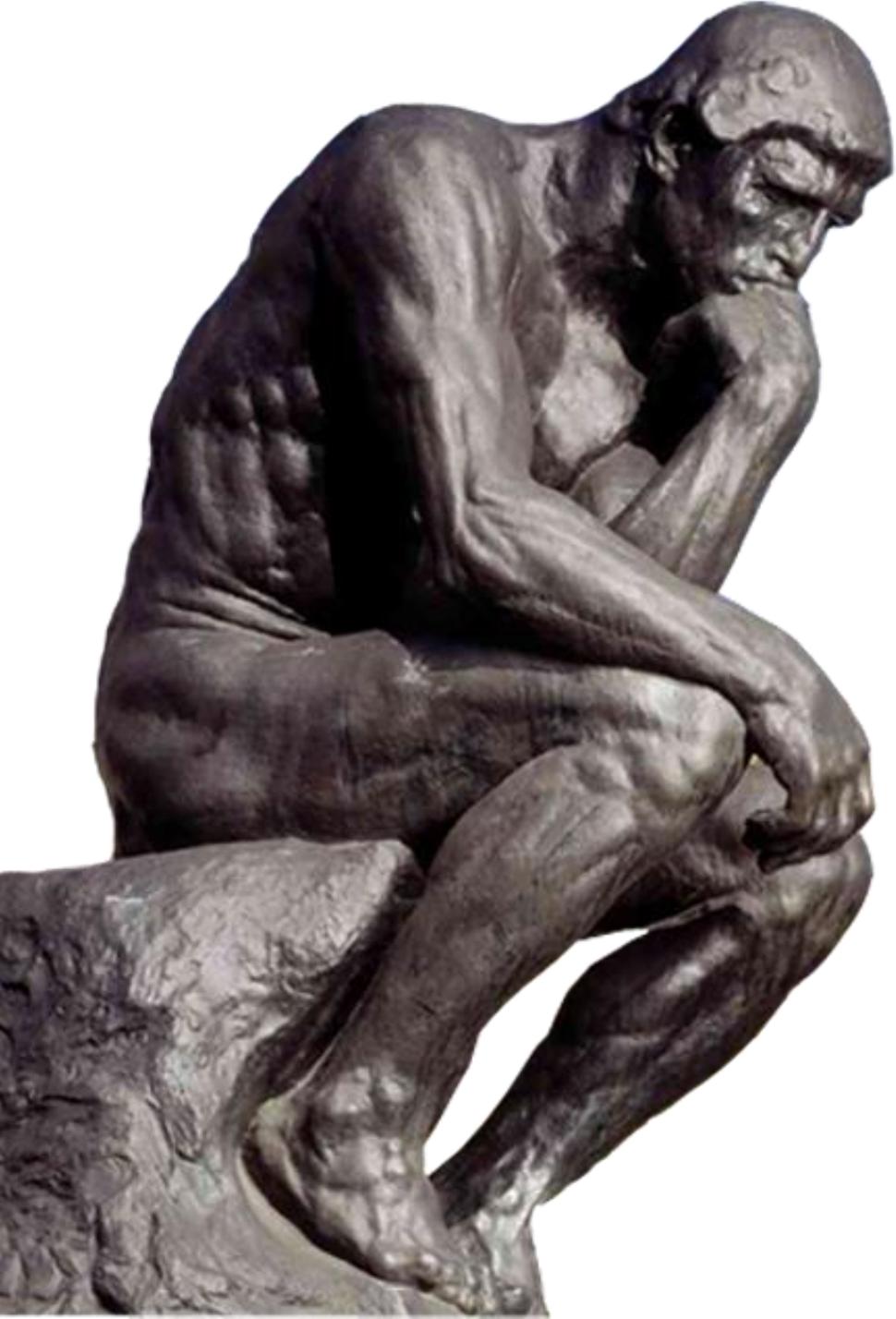
China is the largest country on Earth.

Football is the most popular sport in the world.

Mozart was the most talented composer in history.

Cheating is wrong.

Terrorism is a dangerous threat to our safety.



HOW do we
know?

KNOWLEDGE QUESTIONS

WAYS OF KNOWING

Sense perception

Emotion

Language

Reason

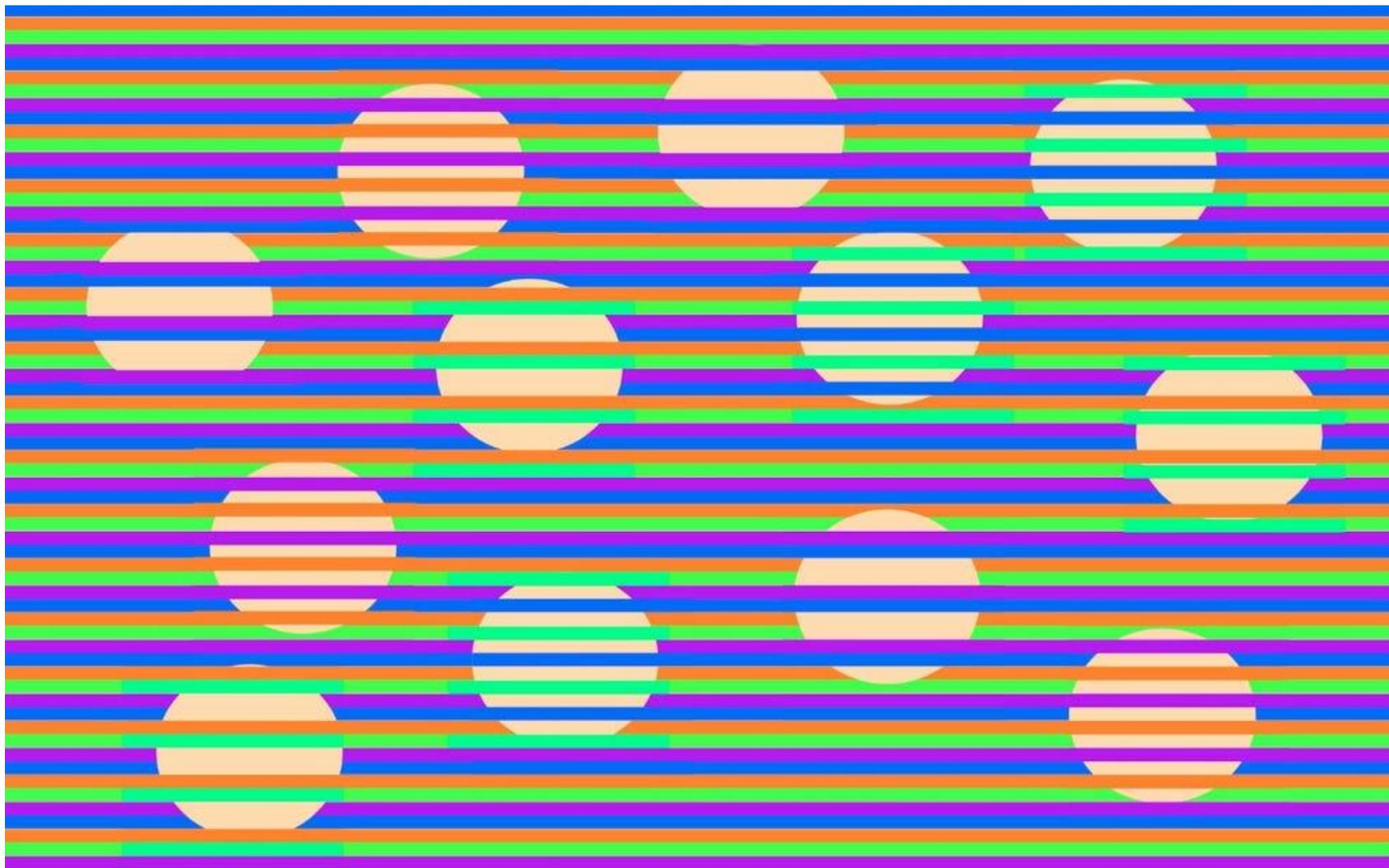
Memory

Imagination

Intuition

Faith











The Eyewitness Effect



The Eyewitness Effect



The Eyewitness Effect

terrified

upset



arrogant

annoyed



GOOD NEWS NETWORK

WALDEINSAMKEIT

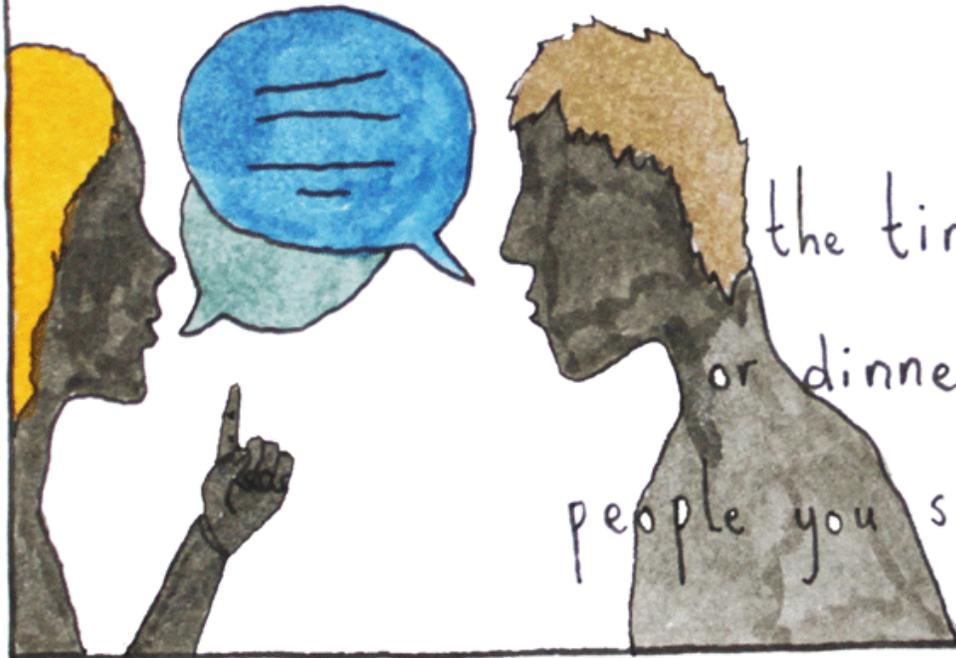
(german)



THE FEELING OF BEING
ALONE IN THE WOODS.

SOBREMESA

(spanish)



the time spent after lunch
or dinner, talking to the
people you shared the meal with.



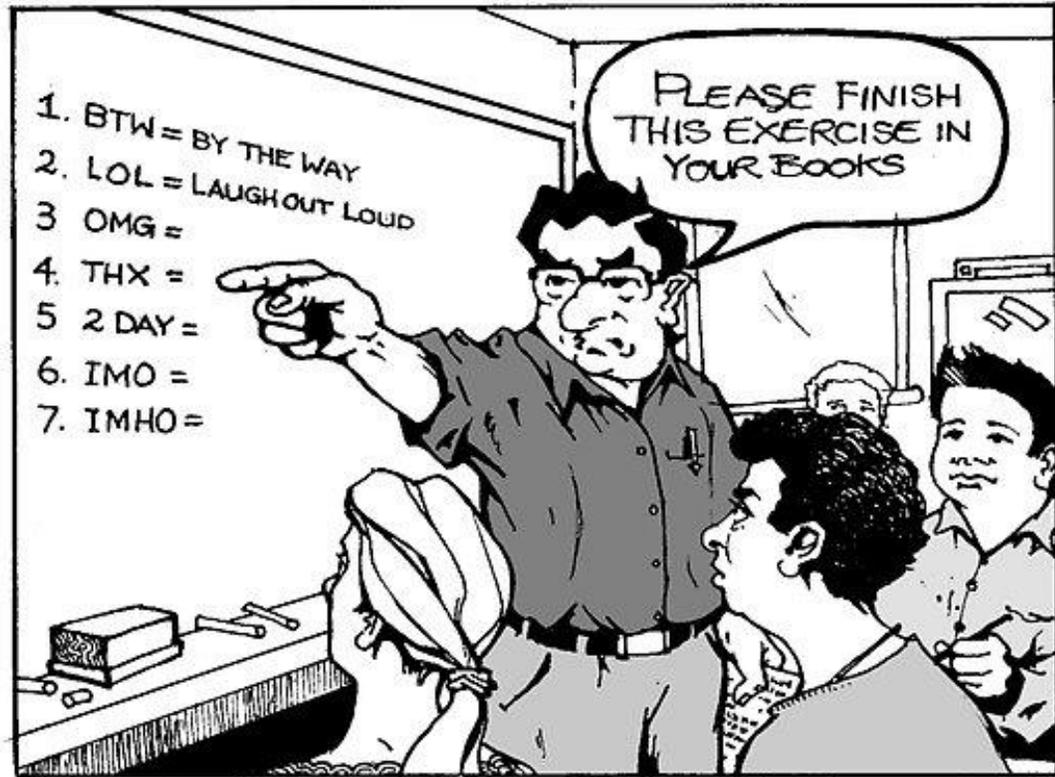
JAYUS

(indonesian)

A JOKE TOLD SO POORLY AND
SO UNFUNNY THAT ONE CANNOT
HELP BUT LAUGH.



Some words of the 21st Century



auto-suggest

unfriend

binge-watch

podcast

crowdfunding

retweet

selfie

Rationalization and cognitive bias



What is bias?

Bias is a natural inclination for or against an idea, object, group, or individual. It is often learned and is highly dependent on variables like a person's socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, educational background, etc.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/intl/basics/bias>

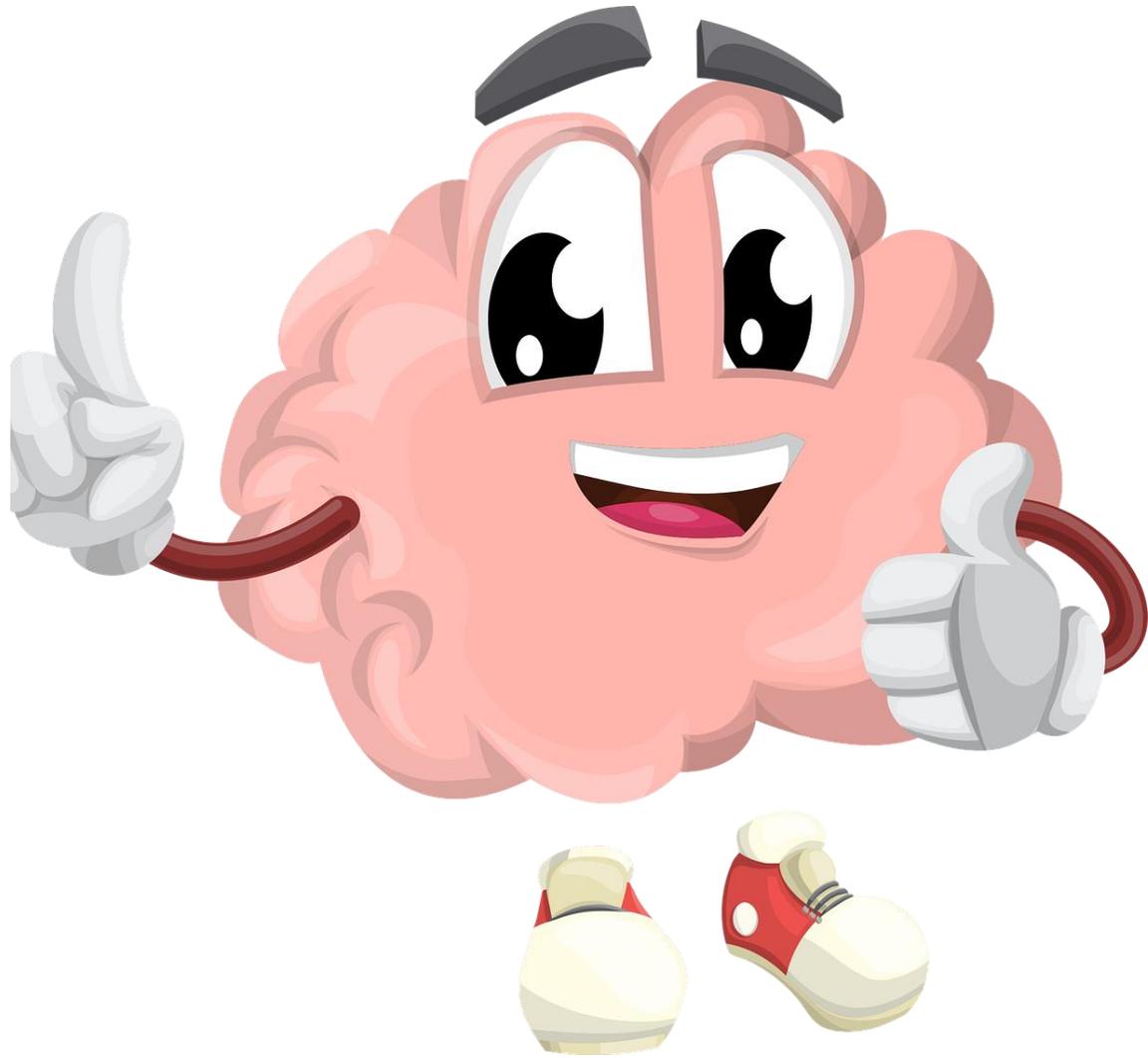
EXPLICIT vs. IMPLICIT Biases

There are two types of bias identified in the literature.

In the case of **explicit** or conscious, the person is very clear about his or her feelings and attitudes, and related behaviors are conducted with intent. This type of bias is processed neurologically at a conscious level as declarative, semantic memory, and in words.

Implicit or unconscious bias operates outside of the person's awareness and can be in direct contradiction to a person's espoused beliefs and values.

<https://nccc.georgetown.edu/bias/module-3/1.php>



Your
mind's
shortcut

Consider the following statements...

Women are more **emotional** than men.

Successful people work harder than others.

Overweight people are **lazy**.

Western cultures are more advanced than others.

Boys **tend** to be better at science and math.

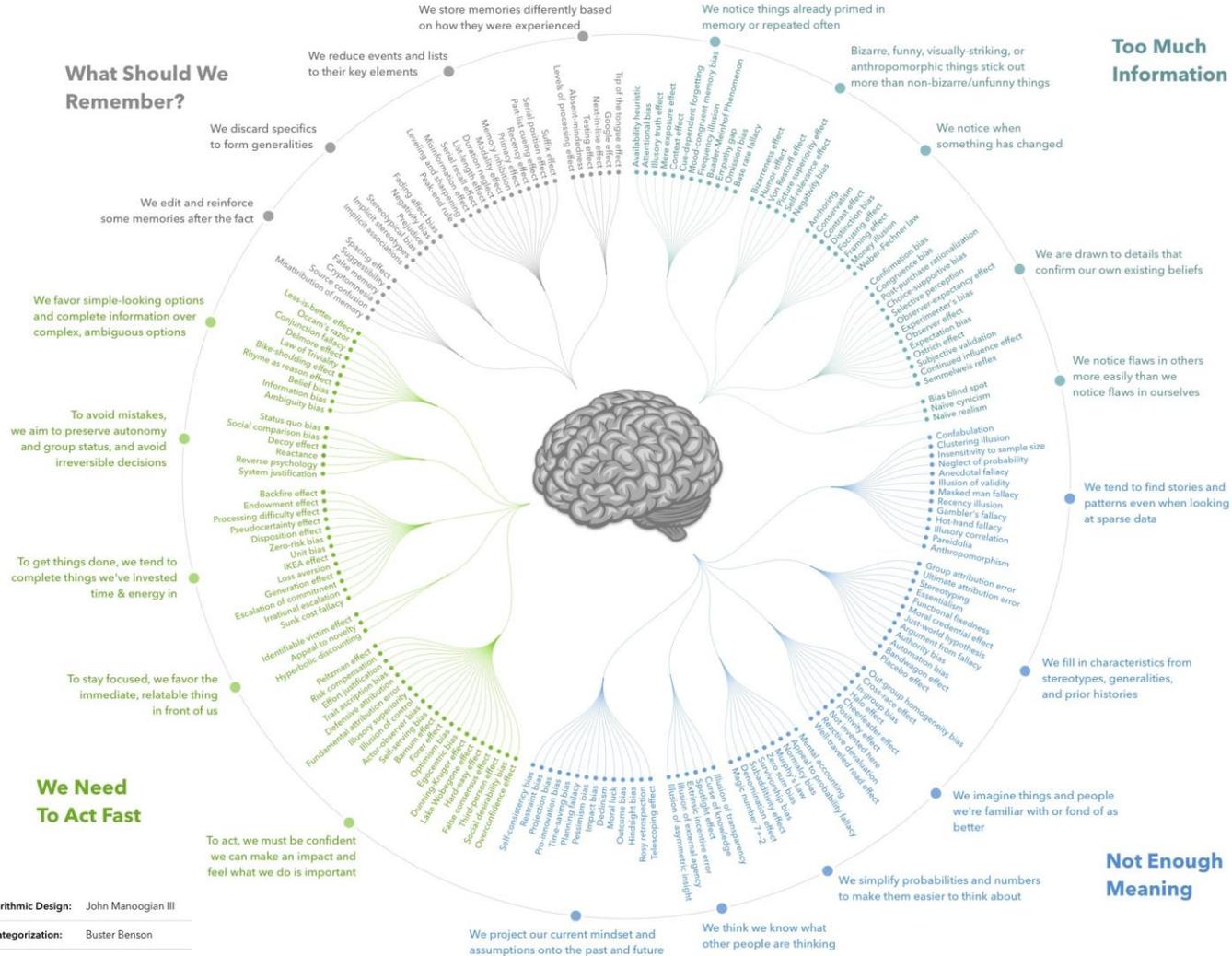
Girls tend to collaborate in groups **better** than boys.

All people should have a **right** to the same quality healthcare, free of charge.

Implicit Bias - Characteristics

- Everyone has it!
- Implicit bias does NOT always reflect explicit bias!
- Implicit associations do NOT necessarily align with our beliefs!
- Implicit biases TEND to favor our “ingroup”
- Implicit biases can be CHANGED

COGNITIVE BIAS CODEX



Visual & Algorithmic Design: John Manoogian III
 Concept & Categorization: Buster Benson
 List of 188 Cognitive Biases: Wikipedia

Teacher Bias

- The **Pygmalion Effect**
- “Teacher expectations of student success are more predictive than student motivation and student effort.” (ELS 2012)
- Chicken and the egg paradox
- Bias against boys
- Bias against girls
- Grading bias (the **Halo Effect** in action!)
- Racial/ethnic bias

Alternative *facts*, alternative *interpretations*, or just plain *wrong*??

The cup is half full.

Messi is the greatest footballer of all time.

Immigrants are taking away our jobs.

The economy is performing at a high level.

The American CO-VID response has been a failure.

The U.S. landed a space craft on the Moon in 1969.

The Earth is spherical planetary body.

The cup is half empty.

Ronaldo is the greatest footballer of all time.

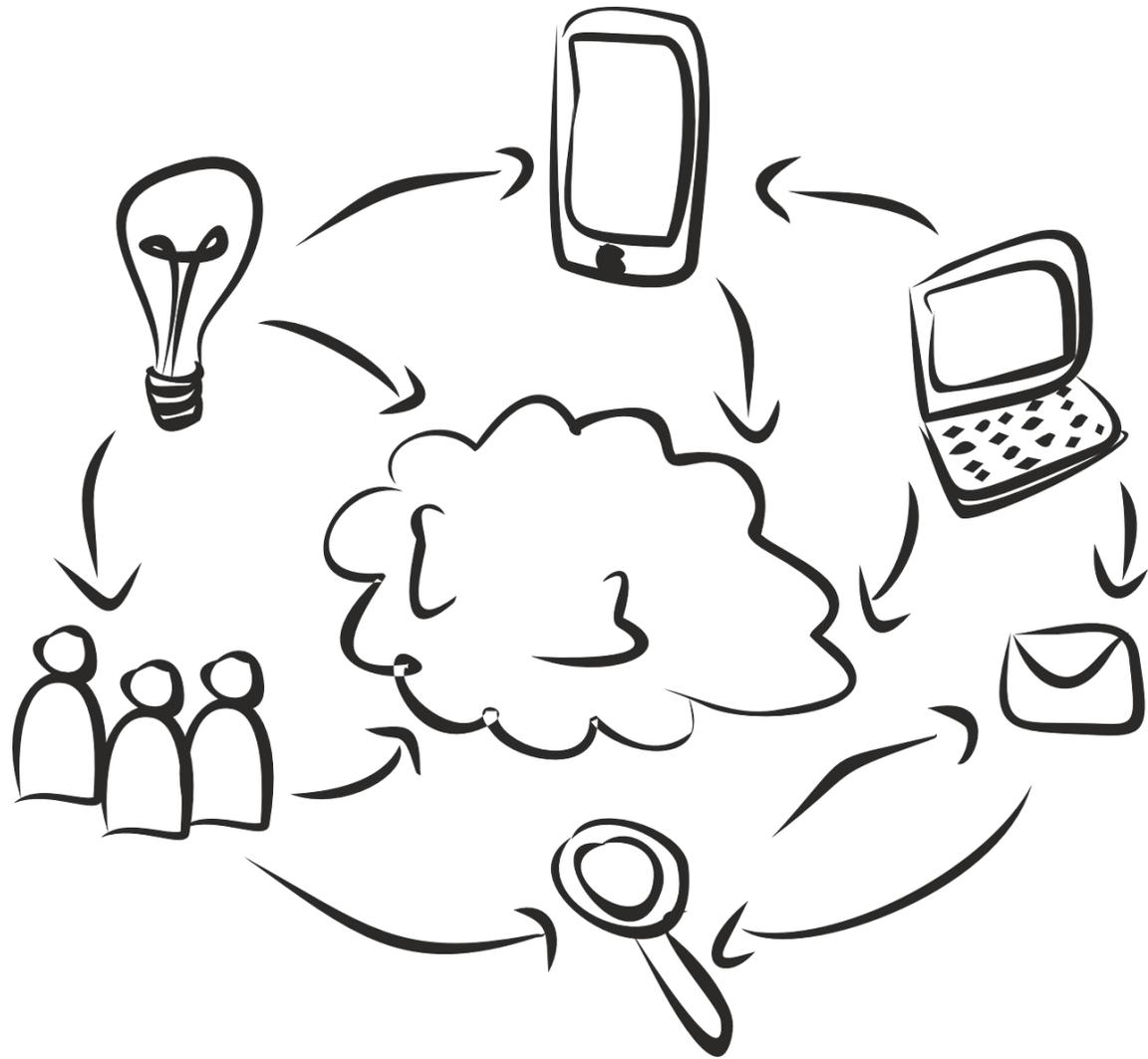
Immigrants are doing the jobs no one else wants to do.

Unemployment is at its highest level in decades.

The American CO-VID response has saved millions of lives.

The U.S. moon landing was an elaborate hoax.

The Earth's surface is flat.



Discussing “fake news” and media bias with students

- Help students understand their own implicit biases
- Explain how the media makes use of our implicit biases
- Try a fake news headlines games
- Provide guidelines for evaluating the authenticity of news stories
- Discuss the explicit biases of media sources, both local and international



Beware of Mis-, Dis-, and Mal-!!!

- **Mis-information** - Information that is false, but not created with the intention of causing harm.
- **Dis-information** - Information that is false and deliberately created to harm a person, social group, organization or country.
- **Mal-information** - Information that is based on reality, used to inflict harm on a person, organization or country.

 **Bernie Sanders** ✓
@BernieSanders

Forty percent of the guns in this country are sold without any background checks. We have to end the absurdity of the gun show loophole.

Harmfully Misleading

Twitter Community reports have identified this tweet as violating the Community Policy on Harmfully Misleading Information. This tweet's visibility will be reduced.

Top Reports

Participate

 **Jamison Hong** ✓

This claim overstates the number of guns sold without background checks by 2x. The actual estimate based on recent survey data is 22%. See nytimes.com/backgro...

 **Sidney Oberhaus** ✓

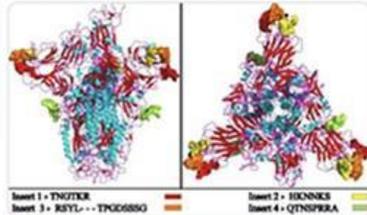
Bernie Sanders is citing an outdated and flawed 1997 study that surveyed only 200 people. The real % of guns sold without background checks is half this. While still concerning, it's important people know the real estimates. Full study: annals.org/aim...

 **Alan Ewing** ✓ Washington Post

Bernie Sanders often cites this debunked study. About 20% of guns are estimated to be

 **Anand Ranganathan** ✓
@aranganathan72

Oh my god. Indian scientists have just found HIV (AIDS) virus-like insertions in the 2019-nCov virus that are not found in any other coronavirus. They hint at the possibility that this Chinese virus was designed ["not fortuitous"]. Scary if true. biorxiv.org/content/10.110...



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Top Reports

Participate

 **Sumita Thiagarajan** ✓

While it is true that the Coronavirus has some similarities to the HIV virus, so do many other viruses, and there's absolutely no indication it was man-made. See analysis here: massivesci.com/note...

 **Kevin McCarthy** ✓
@GOPLeader

Whistleblowers were required to provide direct, first-hand knowledge of allegations...but just days before the Ukraine whistleblower came forward, the IC secretly removed that requirement from the complaint form.

We won't rest until we have answers.



Intel Community Secretly Nixed Whistleblower Demand Of First-Hand Info

Federal records show the intel community secretly re...
thefederalist.com

Harmfully Misleading

Twitter Community reports have identified this tweet as violating the Community Policy on Harmfully Misleading Information. This tweet's visibility will be reduced.

Top Reports

Participate



**John
Travolta is
Forrest
Gump**

1. Nasa is installing internet on the moon



Real

This is really happening! Nasa will be building a 4G network on the moon, enabling them to control lunar robots. This story was reported by Newsround, The Independent, and several other sites.

✗ Fake

Fake News Headlines Activity

FACT AND OPINION

EXERCISE III:

Mark statements of **fact with an *F*** and statements of **opinion with an *O***.

- ___ 1. In 1924, the Model T Ford could be purchased for \$290.
- ___ 2. The Model T was the most important invention of the first half of the century.
- ___ 3. By the end of this century, electric cars will be in common use.
- ___ 4. Couples should be acquainted for at least a year before getting married.
- ___ 5. Joining the Army is the best way to learn job skill.
- ___ 6. No symbol elicits fear as does the swastika.
- ___ 7. The core of a pencil is made of graphite and clay, not lead.
- ___ 8. It's better to plant masses of flowers all in one color than in two or three colors.
- ___ 9. The equator is 24,901.55 miles long.
- ___ 10. It's never too early to teach children how to behave.

Name: _____



Animal Facts and Opinions

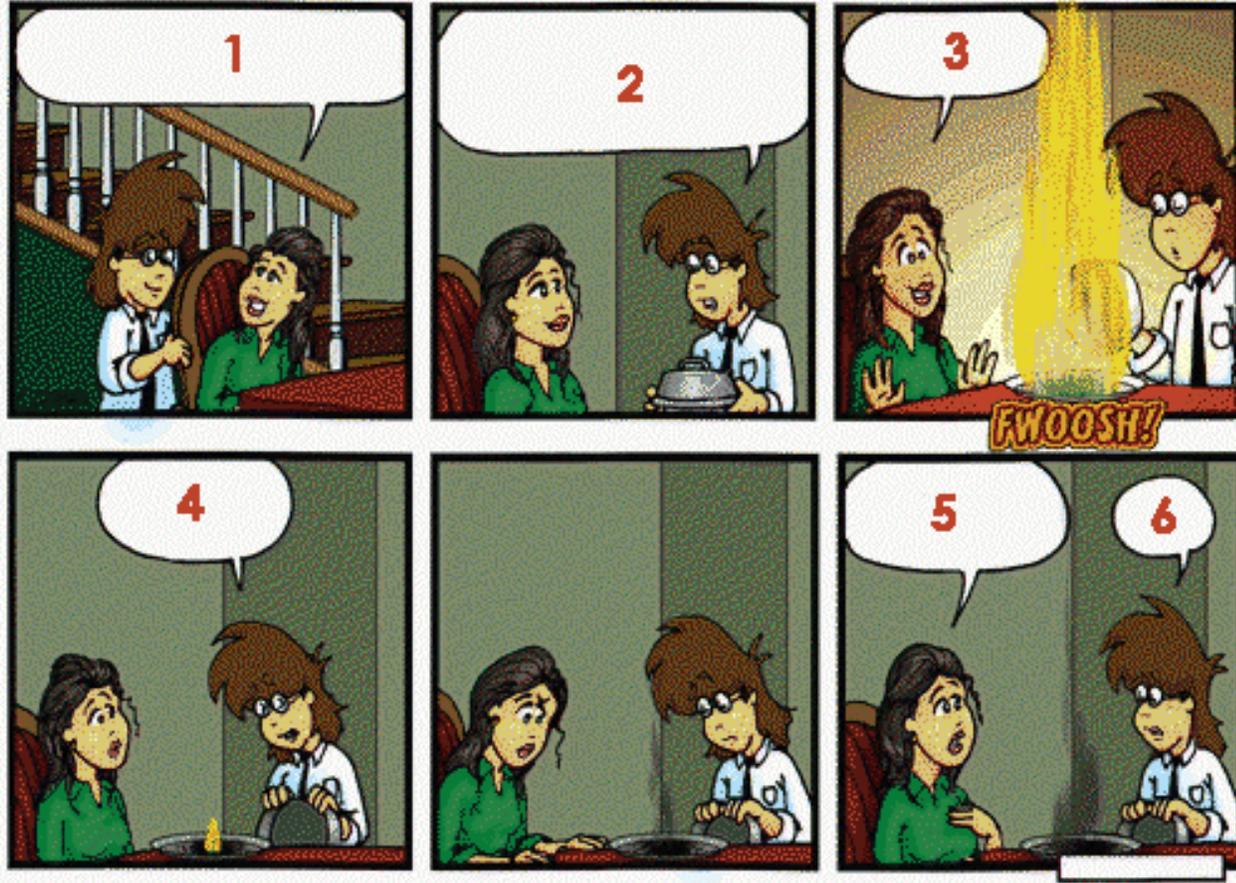
Tell whether each sentence is a fact or opinion. Write "fact" next to each statement that gives information that you can prove. Write "opinion" next to statements that tell how someone feels about something.

1. _____ A giant tortoise can live to be over 150 years old.
2. _____ Jennifer saw a zebra at the zoo.
3. _____ A polar bear is the most fun animal to watch.
4. _____ Parrots are prettier than blue birds.
5. _____ Elephants eat grass and leaves.
6. _____ Bald eagles usually lay one or two eggs at a time.
7. _____ Blue whales are the largest animals in the world.
8. _____ A cheetah can run faster than a lion.
9. _____ Everyone should go to see the new gorilla habitat.
10. _____ Koalas usually sleep during the day.
11. _____ Canaries sing beautifully.
12. _____ The bats in the cave are very scary.
13. _____ Snakes do not make good pets.
14. _____ Chimpanzees can climb to the tops of trees.
15. _____ Hummingbirds are the only bird that can fly backwards.
16. _____ A rhinoceros can be very difficult to take care of.
17. _____ Crocodiles spend most of their time in saltwater.
18. _____ Pandas are black and white.
19. _____ Hippos are amazing animals to watch.
20. _____ A Komodo dragon is a reptile.



Fact vs. Opinion

Comic Strip Interpretation/ Prediction





What's Going
On In This
Picture?

Whose
side are
they on?



© NewsWise 2019

BAD LUCK FOR HARDWORKING SOUTHAMPTON AS THEY LOSE TO MANCHESTER CITY

Southampton Football Club put up a brave fight against Manchester City last night. Although Manchester won, scoring their only goal in the very last minute of the match, Southampton should be proud of the way they played.

Manchester City only had two shots on target because Southampton played so well. Southampton had three shots on target, but unfortunately all of them were saved by City's keeper.

Even though Southampton played amazingly and went the extra mile to stop City from getting a goal, they suffered the same bad luck they have had all season. In the final minute the Manchester team managed to score.

In the end, it was an entertaining game, so Southampton players and fans can hold their heads high.

**News.
WISE**

CHALLENGE 1

The owner of the paper	The news story
<p>Sam is the owner of a chicken farm. Sam also owns the local newspaper.</p>	<p>A town had lots of complaints of food poisoning from people eating in restaurants there. Food hygiene inspectors suspected that the problem was the chicken from Sam's chicken farm. When they visited Sam's farm they discovered that the conditions were very unclean. They have told Sam, the owner of the farm, to stop selling chickens until they have investigated the farm further, or the farm will be closed down.</p>

Directions: Read each passage and then respond to the questions. Each question will ask you to make a logical inference based on textual details. Explain your answer by referencing the text.

Every day after work Paul took his muddy boots off on the steps of the front porch. Alice would have a fit if the boots made it so far as the welcome mat. He then took off his dusty overalls and threw them into a plastic garbage bag; Alice left a new garbage bag tied to the porch railing for him every morning. On his way in the house, he dropped the garbage bag off at the washing machine and went straight up the stairs to the shower as he was instructed. He would eat dinner with her after he was “presentable,” as Alice had often said.

1. What type of job does Paul do? _____

How do you know this?

2. Describe Alice: _____

What in the text supports your description?

3. What relationship do Paul and Alice have? _____

Why do you feel this way?



Convince Me If You Can

- ❑ Think of an original idea for a new invention!
- ❑ You have just two minutes to convince me to use it.
- ❑ Be sure to make your presentation **PERSUASIVE**.
- ❑ Monroe's Motivated Sequence:

Get attention

Show the need

Give a solution

Imagine the future

Act now!

Teaching Rhetorical Strategies

Ethos – use facts and show where you got them. Be an expert on your topic!

Pathos – show how you feel and make a connection with the audience. Make sure you're sense!

Logos – have a strong argument and **MAKE SENSE!**



DEBATE!!!

Research shows that debating:

- Improves critical thinking skills
- Enhances self-confidence
- Strengthens public speaking skills
- Improves listening skills
- Helps organize thoughts

Integrating Media Literacy Education into the Classroom

- Exploit “teachable moments”
- Give students a chance to create media, not just analyze it
- Start and end with the key concepts
- Recognize that kids – and adults – enjoy media
- Teach *about* media, not just *with* media
- Make media education about asking questions, not learning answers
- Fight the perception that “It doesn’t matter”
- Assess and evaluate media literacy work
- Let students bring their own media to the table
- Keep up-to-date with media trends and developments

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Mission: Media Literacy

Center for Media Literacy

Educator resources and reference documentation to help YOU integrate media literacy education into your curriculum and/or classes.

Includes a lesson plan and activity archive and a reading room, with a huge searchable library and archive.

Media Literacy Week



October 26-30

<https://medialiteracyweek.us/>

NetSmartz.org



matthew.e.benton@gmail.com