

Examining the News from All Sides

Print newspapers, television news shows, online news sites, and social media platforms do not all present the news in the same way or even as objectively agreed upon and accurate facts.

Rather, as demonstrated in [Truth Decay](#), the news we read and view is a combination of facts and opinions, neutrality and bias, packaged to appeal to different audiences (young, old, affluent, working class) and, in some cases, partisan political perspectives (Democrats, Republicans, progressives, conservatives). The same event is likely to be covered differently by Facebook, Fox News, MSNBC, *The New York Times*, and the *Washington Post*.



Democracy For All:

Topic 7, Standard 2.1

Examining Objectivity

Watch on YouTube <https://edtechbooks.org/-zjx>

In the following activities you will practice evaluating the news from different sides; that is, from different points of view and contrasting political perspectives.

Activity 1: Evaluate the News From All Sides

- Select a Topic (choose one):
 - [Coronavirus](#)
 - [West Coast Fires](#)
 - [Facebook banning political ads](#)
 - [QAnon](#)
- Read through the stories featured for your selected topic (at least one left, one center, and one right perspective) and then

consider each of the following questions:

- Which stories most closely follow the **Inverted Pyramid** format?
 - Do you think that using the Inverted Pyramid format affects the trustworthiness of the story?
- How does the perspective differ in each story? Pay close attention to who is quoted in each article.
- How does the descriptive language differ between the stories?
 - Note at least three adjectives in each story and if and how the use of these descriptors changes from one perspective to another.
- How do the images used in each story differ? Why do you think the images differ?
- Who do you think is the audience for each story?
 - How do you think the article's choice of perspective is meant to target that audience?
- What primary, secondary, tertiary sources are used? How reliable is the content? How did you determine this?
- Create a presentation, interactive image, or video to inform your peers and family members about the differences between left-leaning, center, and right-leaning news articles.

Activity 2: Write the News From All Sides

- Choose a school, local, or national issue that interests and impacts you directly.
- Write three brief news reports about the issue featuring three different perspectives (i.e., left, center, right) or points of view (e.g., favorable, unfavorable, objective).
 - Consider: How will you use descriptive language and images in your story in ways that support your perspective or point of view?

Additional Resources

- [Media Bias Chart](#) (AllSides)
- [Teacher and Student Guide to Analyzing News and Newspapers](#)
- [SmartNews' latest news discovery feature shows articles from across the political spectrum](#)

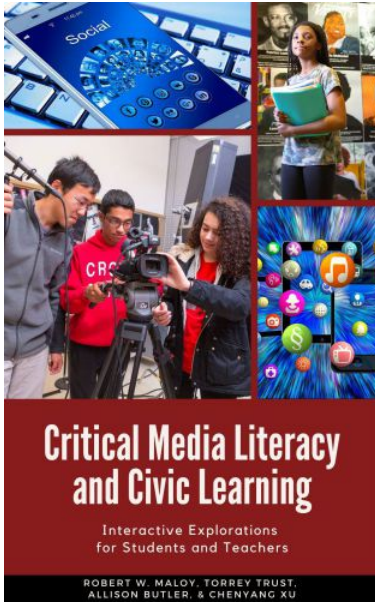
Connecting to the eBook

[*Building Democracy for All: Competing Information in a Free Press*](#)

Connecting to the Standards

- [Massachusetts Civics & Government Standards](#)
 - *Give examples of how a free press can provide competing information and views about government and politics. (Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for History and Social Studies) [8.T7.2]*
- [ISTE Standards](#)
 - Knowledge Constructor
 - 3b: Students evaluate the accuracy, perspective, credibility and relevance of information, media, data, or other resources.
 - Creative Communicator
 - 6a: Students choose the appropriate platforms and tools for meeting the desired objectives of their creation or communication.
 - 6b: Students create original works or responsibly repurpose or remix digital resources into new creations.
 - 6d: Students publish or present content that customizes the message and medium for the intended audiences.
- [DLCS Standards](#)

- Interpersonal and Societal Impact (CAS.c)
- Digital Tools (DTC.a)
- Collaboration and Communication (DTC.b)
- Research (DTC.c)
- [English Language Arts > History/Social Studies Common Core Standards](#)
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.5
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.6
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.7
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.8
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.5
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.6
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.8
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.9
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.5
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.6
 - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.8



Maloy, R. W., Trust, T., , & Xu, C. (2021). *Critical Media Literacy and Civic Learning*. EdTech Books.
<https://edtechbooks.org/mediaandciviclearning>