Conspiracy Theories & Media Literacy

Media Literacy · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. What is the best way to verify if a sensational news story is true?

A) Check if multiple reliable news outlets are reporting it
B) Share it immediately to see what others think
C) Trust the first website that appears in a search
D) Assume it is true if it has a lot of likes

2. Which of the following is considered a credible source for scientific facts?

A) A personal social media post
B) A peer-reviewed scientific journal
C) An anonymous comment section
D) A website that sells miracle cures

3. What is a 'conspiracy theory'?

A) A proven fact verified by scientists
B) A verified historical event
C) A belief that a secret group is responsible for an event
D) A government document released to the public

4. What does the term 'debunking' mean?

A) Creating a new conspiracy theory
B) Proving a claim to be false using evidence
C) Ignoring a story until it goes away
D) Writing a story about a secret group

5. What is 'confirmation bias'?

A) The tendency to ignore facts that contradict our existing beliefs
B) The habit of checking three different sources
C) The ability to read scientific reports
D) The act of debating someone with facts

6. Why is it important to check the date on an online article?

A) Old news may no longer be accurate or relevant
B) Dates are used to identify the author
C) The date shows how many people read the article
D) Older articles are always more truthful

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7. Which of these is a sign that a website might be spreading misinformation?

A) The site provides links to original data
B) The site uses inflammatory or overly emotional language
C) The site has a clear 'About Us' section
D) The site is hosted by a university

8. What is 'peer review' in science?

A) Asking friends to read an article
B) Testing a theory only at home
C) Independent experts checking research for accuracy before publication
D) A process where only the government checks facts

9. Why should you be skeptical of a 'miracle' product that claims to cure all illnesses?

A) Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence
B) It is always sold for a low price
C) Doctors are not allowed to sell products
D) The product is usually very expensive

10. What is a primary goal of media literacy education?

A) To believe everything you read online
B) To help people analyze and evaluate the reliability of information
C) To discourage students from using the internet
D) To teach students how to write conspiracy theories

11. What does a 'fact-check' website typically do?

A) It creates rumors for entertainment
B) It investigates the accuracy of claims using verifiable evidence
C) It collects personal information from users
D) It publishes opinion pieces about politicians

12. Why are images or videos sometimes misleading?

A) They can be edited or taken out of context
B) They are too high quality to be fake
C) They are always captured by news reporters
D) They are too old to be manipulated

13. Which of the following is a hallmark of credible reporting?

A) Using all capital letters for emphasis
B) Citing verifiable sources and experts
C) Including no references to keep it simple
D) Focusing only on rumors

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14. In the context of information, what is 'evidence'?

A) A feeling that something is true
B) Information that supports or proves a claim
C) A popular opinion held by many people
D) A story passed down by word of mouth

15. What should you do if you encounter a story that makes you feel very angry?

A) Share it to express your anger
B) Pause and verify the information before reacting
C) Comment on the post to start an argument
D) Delete your social media account

16. What is a 'controlled experiment' designed to do?

A) To prove a theory regardless of the data
B) To isolate a single variable to see its effect
C) To trick the participants into believing a theory
D) To provide a subjective opinion

17. Why is relying on a single source of information risky?

A) The author might be biased or incorrect
B) It saves time during research
C) It is always faster to read one article
D) One source is usually more detailed than many

18. What does the term 'misinformation' refer to?

A) True information shared in private
B) Information that is false or inaccurate
C) An opinion about a movie
D) A historical fact verified by records

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