



# Media Literacy Toolkit

Today, more than ever, it's essential to be a critical consumer of media. Our 24-hour news cycle and increasingly partisan social media can function to push us toward certain perspectives, often spinning stories for specific political agendas.

It's hard not to just absorb information from outside sources, but that leaves us open to misinterpretation, media bias, and sometimes incorrect information. Parent leaders need to become **active agents for truth in the news**.

Whether you're looking to be better able to find credible information and look for bias as an individual, or if you're looking to lead your PLTI or alumni group, or inform people in your community, you can use these resources and recommendations to get started. And email [jennifer.parentwholead@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.parentwholead@gmail.com) to share your own resources to help us all become better informed.



[Factcheck.org](https://www.factcheck.org) is a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center. American politicians' statements on everything from climate change, to global politics, to business are fact-checked, providing you with clear information about topics, provided by credible sources. You'll be able to see which statements are backed with facts, and which have no foundation in truth.



[Politifact.com](https://www.politifact.com) is a Pulitzer Prize-winning website that provides clear, summarized fact-checking of the day's headlines and statements from politicians. There's even a Truth-O-Meter to help you get a clear sense of the facts that may or may not line up with what people are saying.



The Center for Media Literacy, at [medialit.org](https://www.medialit.org) provides helpful guides for educating young people and groups about critical reading. Here, you'll find resources and activities to help you and your community become better informed, so you can understand all sides of the issues.



Media literacy isn't just about facts, it's also about bias. A story can be factual, yet still be told from a limited perspective, to expose the reader to a limited interpretation. This is usually done in service of a specific agenda. [AllSides.com](https://www.allsides.com) can help you see different versions of the same story, and how each one serves a political agenda.

**Share these resources with your community, use them to help determine how reliable your sources are. Take charge of your news!**

- Spend a week getting your news from a new source! Spend some time on news sites from another end of the political spectrum. See a new perspective on the issues of the day.
- Watch hearings and events live! See for yourself what politicians are saying, and then compare it to what you read later in the news cycle.
- Talk with your children about what they're hearing at school. Ask them about how they know if something is true. Read articles together and talk about different perspectives.