

# To share or not to share?

*exercise meant to recognise fake news by applying the C.R.A.P. test*

Necessary materials: video projector, computer connected to the Internet .

Pedagogical National College “Spiru Haret” Buzau

DURATION: 2 Hours

DATE : 29.05.2019

DEVELOPMENT OF THE LESSON:

The students will learn what fake news is and why they are shared/spread online.

They will be able to learn to identify fake news by applying a verification test called C.R.A.P.

In the end, the students will discuss about the context in which fake news becomes viral online and about the effects of spreading it online

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

The students will be able to

- Verify the credibility of an online source
- Understand the necessity of identifying fake news
- Discover mechanisms and reasons behind spreading or creating fake news online
- Check dubious information before spreading it to online friends ;

Activities:

## 1.The definition of FAKE NEWS

The simplest definition of fake news is that it is deceitful/misleading and it contains information or false details inserted on purpose or because of ill-intended thoughts. Practically, fake news is a mutant piece of news, some shapeshifters, like Mystique from the X-Men series. It has the ability to take the shape and form of real news but it is crated to do harm.

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## 2. The test – TO SHARE OR NOT TO SHARE?

The exercise below is an adaptation of a model of deconstruction of fake news promoted by Srividya Kumar, co-founder of the platform called *Learnnovators*.

The original name of the model called The CRAP test, is an acronym that is made up of the four criteria of analysing potentially fake news:

C – currency (if it is news that interests people today)

R- reliability (level of trust and exactness of information)

A – authority (authority, expertise, professionalism)

P – purpose/point of view (aim, angle, approach)

3. Exercise- video on youtube- Your friend posts the following on his/her wall; what do you do? Share or not share?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOWvXaLZ7eI>

Briefly: During a Romanian television show named *Acces Direct*, aired on September 26, 2016 by a private TV company- Antena 1, some persons mentioned the apparition of a black ambulance on the streets of Bucuresti. Its driver was suspected of kidnapping innocent children with the purpose of using their organs for transplant.

The subject was presented as follows: “ Suspicious apparition on the streets of Bucuresti, a black ambulance is driving around supposedly for kidnapping children for illegally using their organs for transplant.”

Titles on the screen:

“ We have the evidence! The black ambulance really exists! Suspicious apparition in the dead of the night! Where is the car now?”

Invited guests on the set: Ioana Tănase (psihologist), Mara Bănică (journalist), Sorin Ovidiu Bălan (journalist).

4. Discussions after seeing the fragment : Students are invited to answer the question : Do you share the video or don't you? Have you got any reservations or are you sure of its source?

## 5. The test

In order to analyse neutrally, students will be divided into 4 groups of special investigations:

Team actuality, team accuracy, team authority and team angle of approach.

Each team will have to investigate and answer the specific questions.

Note: The students will need their mobile phones because some of the necessary information must be searched online on Google. During the exercise, they will only communicate within their groups for about 15-20 minutes for their investigations.

They will write down their discoveries on a piece of paper for each of the items information of their exercise.

In order to apply the test, we will use the model offered by the site belonging to Scena9, as the link below shows:

<https://www.scena9.ro/articole/ora-de-fake-news>

6. The Presentation of the results : At the end of this exercise, try to see if your answers to the question: Your best friend posts this on her/his wall, do you share it or not? <https://www.paginademedia.ro/2017/02/dupa-cinci-luni-ambulanta-neagra-vine-cu-amenda-acces-direct-penalizata-pentru-cazul-salvarii-care-rapeste-copii>

Article 65 from the Audiovisual Code

During television shows, debates and news, broadcasters must respect the following rules and regulations:

- a) rigor and accuracy in writing and presenting the news;
- b) there must be a real connection between the issue dealt with and the images that accompany it on screen;
- c) both the texts on screen and the news must reflect as faithfully as possible the essence of the facts and data presented

Regardless of the reactions, answers etcetera, at least one thing will be confirmed : the verification of a piece of news lasts more than reading it and sharing it.

The exercise was built around a sequence of events of only 4 minutes from a talk show. The deconstruction and processing it, following the CRAP criteria, took about 45 minutes at least.

7. The Presentation of conclusions : Students can now verify the real value of some news by using the CRAP test and they will prove to be reliable analysis tools, easy to apply and necessary for discovering the truth despite the long time required for research.

NOTE : This is an exercise proposed by teacher Camelia Mancu, by adapting the script made by Ionut Codreanu in the article *Ora de fake news -*







<https://www.scena9.ro/article/ora-de-fake-news>.