

Appendix A: Scripts used in the interventions

Note. The information included below includes the text-based scripts of the interventions that were presented to participants as infographics, simulating the design of actual interventions that have been used by media literacy educations and governmental organizations in the Netherlands and other European countries (see screenshots at the end of this Appendix). The texts are translated from Dutch to English.

Control condition

Six tips to search more effectively in Google

By: THE EDITORIAL TEAM

The internet is a great source of information. If you know where to look, you can find almost anything you need to know online. Search engines can help you with this process, but sometimes it is difficult to find that specific term you want to use. Fortunately, there are enough tricks you can use to make your search experience easier and more efficient.

#1. Use additional search options and terms

Sometimes, search engines will give you a long list of results, but not the one you were looking for. To make the results more relevant, you can use various signs and additional words that further specify your questions.

#2. Spelling mistakes are easy to make

Everyone makes spelling mistakes at times. Your mistake is most likely already made by many other users before. These data are collected and used by search engines, so do not worry about getting the spelling right.

#3. Expand your search query in steps

Start with general terms, and add more context as you go. By gradually adding more specific terms, you might get more options without restricting your findings at the start.

#4. Ask Google for help

Sometimes, you can really not find the one word you were looking for. In that case, you can also use search engines to assist you with that: “what was the term for the delay when I change the DNS-records?” Asking questions about terms can help you to get further.

#5. Try various search engines

Everyone knows Google, but did you hear about DuckDuckGo or SearchEncrypt? Every search engine has its own algorithm, which they use to crawl through all data on the internet. This also means that you can get different results from different search engines.

#6. Avoid diminutives

In Dutch, we typically use diminutives and place ‘-je’ or ‘t-je’ behind words. This is very difficult for computers to understand. You will get less relevant hits when you use diminutives than the original words.

1. Established media literacy intervention based on applications in the Dutch context

How can you recognize fake news? Six checks that are always useful

By: OUR EDITORIAL TEAM

Disseminators of fake news try to make their messages resemble real news as close as possible. Are you in doubt on whether a message is trustworthy? With the following checks, you can arrive at a better founded decision.

#1. Read the entire story

The title of a message is often used to attract attention. A title is not a summary of the article. This is why you should always read the entire news article, so all information is available to you. Then, the following steps should be followed.

#2. What is the source of the message?

A standard check: look at the source. Are you confronted with news on social media? Please consider that these are places where everyone can make their own news.

#3. Why was the message written and disseminated?

Think closely about the underlying methods of persons or organizations. Is the message written to inform you? Or does it aim to affect your opinion and trigger a response? It could be fake news if the message tries to make you do something.

#4. What is the tone of the message?

Fake news often tries to respond to and fuel emotions. If you are angry or afraid because of a message, the likelihood that you will believe and share the message increases.

#5. What kind of information is included?

On websites and social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, people can share and make their own messages. There are no clear rules to safeguard or check truths and lies. Thus, there is a likelihood that fake messages are disseminated online.

#6. Are the images and videos accurate?

Fake news often uses images to amplify information. Images often originate from a different setting unrelated to the news. There is also the possibility that images and sounds are edited, manipulated, or fabricated to twist the truth.

2. Deception focused pre-bunking intervention with a stronger trigger of deception

How can you recognize fake news? Six indicators of fake news

By: OUR EDITORIAL TEAM

Fake news can be all around. Disseminators of fake news try to make their messages resemble real news as close as possible. Are you in doubt on whether a message is trustworthy? With the following checks, you can arrive at a well-informed verdict.

#1. Read the entire story: sensational titles often indicate fake news

The title of a message is often used to attract attention. Sensational titles are often used in fake news. This is why you should always read the entire news article, so all information is available to you. Then, the following steps should be followed.

#2. What is the source of the message? Social media often contain fake news

A standard check: look at the source. Are you confronted with news on social media? Please consider that these are places where fake news abounds.

#3. Why was the message written and disseminated? Fake news tries to persuade you

Think closely about the underlying methods of persons or organizations. Is the message written to inform you? Or does it aim to affect your opinion and trigger a response? In these cases, there is a high likelihood that the message is fake.

#4. What is the tone of the message? Fake news is often highly emotional

Fake news often tries to respond to and fuel emotions. If you are angry or afraid because of a message, the likelihood that the message is fake increases.

#5. What kind of information is included? Missing facts can point to fake news

On websites and social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, people can share and make their own messages. There are no clear rules to safeguard or check truths and lies. Thus, fake messages are often disseminated online.

#6. Are the images and videos accurate? Fake news is often based on manipulated footage

Fake news often uses images to amplify information. Images often originate from a different setting unrelated to the news. In fake news, images and sounds are often edited, manipulated, or fabricated to twist the truth.

3. Relativized media literacy intervention

How can you recognize reliable news? Six checks that are always useful

By: OUR EDITORIAL TEAM

Most news that we encounter is reliable and trustworthy. Fake news makes up a small part of all information we encounter. Are you in doubt on whether a message is trustworthy? With the following checks, you can arrive at a well-informed verdict.

#1. Read the entire story

The title of a message is often used to attract attention. A title is not a summary of the article. This is why you should always read the entire news article, so all information is available to you. Then, the following steps should be followed.

#2. What is the source of the message?

A standard check: look at the source. Are you confronted with news on social media? Please consider that these are places where everyone can make their own news.

#3. Why was the message written and disseminated?

Think closely about the underlying methods of persons or organizations. Is the message written to inform you? Or does it aim to affect your opinion and trigger a response? When this is the case, it is useful to be critical toward the motives of the sender.

#4. What is the tone of the message?

Information often tries to evoke emotions. If you are angry or afraid because of a message, the likelihood that you will believe and share the message increases. Although emotional content can be reliable, it may require a more critical response.

#5. What kind of information is included?

On websites and social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, people can share and make their own messages. There are no clear rules to safeguard or check truths and lies. Thus, online and social media contexts ask for a critical perspective on the claims that are voiced.

#6. Are the images and videos accurate?

Information often uses images to amplify the news. Even though real and authentic footage is used most of the time, it is relevant to consider whether the visuals and videos match the content and source of a message.

Example lay-out interventions taken from real-world media literacy programs (in Dutch)

isdatechtzo.nl

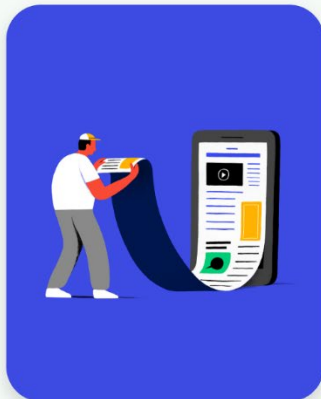
Hoe check je een bericht?

Makers van nepnieuws proberen hun berichten zoveel mogelijk op echt nieuws te laten lijken. Twijfel je of je een bericht kan vertrouwen? Met de volgende checks kan je meer te weten komen. [Via deze link](#) kun je de checks downloaden als één overzicht. Handig om te printen en naast je werkplek te hangen of in de klas!

isdatechtzo.nl



Menu



Hoe check je een bericht?

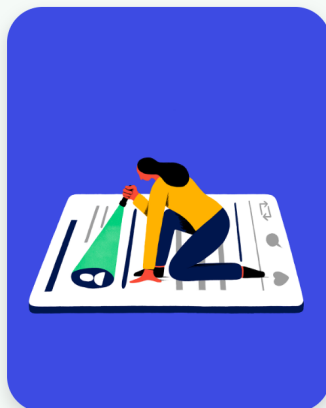
#1 Lees goed het hele bericht

De titel van een bericht wordt vaak gebruikt om de aandacht te trekken. Een titel is alleen geen samenvatting van het bericht. Lees daarom altijd het hele bericht, zodat je alle informatie hebt. Volg daarna de volgende stappen:

isdatechtzo.nl



Menu



Hoe check je een bericht?

#2 Wat is de bron van het bericht?

Een check die je standaard altijd moet doen: kijken wat de bron is. Zie je een bericht op sociale media? Bedenk dan dat dit plekken zijn waar iedereen zelf nieuws kan maken en delen.

Appendix B: Design overview

Condition	Deception prime or cue	Warning messages
Control	Not present	Not present
Established media literacy intervention	Moderate; likelihood deception emphasized	Formulated as need to be critical and find more information
Deception focused pre-bunking	Strong, indicators directly associated with fake news	Formulated as need to be aware of omnipresent fake news threat
Relativized media literacy intervention	Low, suggestions formulated in context reliable news	Formulated as checks to assess reliability of news