Title: FAKE NEWS!!!!
Overview/Annotation: How do you know if a news source is reliable?
Primary Learning Objective(s): Students will examine multiple stories and learn how to decide if they are fake or real.

Total Duration:
Materials and Resources: How false news can spread- Noah Tavlin - TED talk
Stanford Study Finds Most Students Vulnerable to Fake News- NPR podcast
10 questions for fake news detection worksheet
Technology Resources Needed: Promethean board

Procedures/Activities

1. Share the following with your students: Prof. Wineburg says one mistake schools make is to block certain websites from students while they are at school. "In many schools there are internet filters that direct students to previously vetted sites and reliable sources of information. But what happens when they leave school and they take out their phone and they look at their Twitter feed? How do they become prepared to make the choices about what to believe, what to forward, what to post to their friends when they've given no practice in doing those kinds of things in school?" Do your students agree with Dr. Wineburg? Should schools block certain websites? Why or why not?
2. Go through the 10 questions for fake news detection worksheet with students. Go through each point and ask students to rank the ones they feel are most important.
3. Show students the titles of the the fake news stories from Craig Silverman’s Buzzfeed article. Have students decide which ones they think are fake.
a. “Pope Francis Shocks World, Endorses Donald Trump for President, Releases Statement” (960,000, Ending the Fed)
b. “WikiLeaks CONFIRMS Hillary Sold Weapons to ISIS...Then Drops Another BOMBSHELL! Breaking News” (754,000, Ending the Fed)
c. “Just Read the Law: Hillary is Disqualified From Holding Any Federal Office” (701,000, Ending the Fed)
d. “FBI Agent Suspected in Hillary Email Leaks Found Dead in Apparent Murder-Suicide” (567,000, Denver Guardian)

4. Put students into groups assigning them 2 news stories each. Have the students work together using the checklist to decide if the news stories are real or fake.

5. Have students study two stories from the chart above by looking at the fact checking and debunking Internet rumor website Snopes

Attachments: