# Critical Thinking to Improve Media Literacy

The Internet provides us with incredible opportunities to learn and connect. We have more information at our fingertips than ever before; but unfortunately, not-so-great content can also seep through. Whether we're reading comments on a post, content reviews, or news articles, critical thinking skills are crucial online.

In an era where fake news, misinformation, and false narratives can appear right alongside factual information, it is essential that everyone is equipped with the skills to identify what is real and what is not.

Use the checklist to help ask questions, begin conversations, and teach others about how to determine the veracity of online content - no matter what form or medium.

## Defining Media Literacy

Media Literacy provides a framework to access, analyze, evaluate, create and participate with messages in a variety of forms — from print to video to the Internet.*

*Center for Media Literacy

## In Short:

How to think critically about the content you see and consume online!

**Who**
- Who is the creator of this content?
- Who benefits from the content being shared?
- Who is the intended audience?

**What**
- What is the author trying to say?
- What different interpretations of this message could there be?
- What could be a negative or positive influence of the content?

**When**
- When was the content published?
- When has new evidence or information been updated?
- When did you see conflicting or opposing viewpoints to the content?

**Where**
- Where did you find the content? Is it from a reputable source?
- Where is it being distributed – a chat, forum, or comment section?
- Where does the author stand? Do they present a range of opinions or views from both sides of the issue?

**Why**
- Why is the author saying this?
- Why is this important? Is it to educate, inform, or share biases?
- Why are you drawn into the content? (i.e, title, images, sensational wording)

For more information:
**fosi.org/parenting**