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(Mis)Information Creation as a Process:

A Method for Teaching Media
Literacy by Applying an *ACRL*
Framework Frame

Winn W. Wasson

Social Science Librarian

Critical Thinking Bootcamp 2020 Lightning Talk

August 4, 2020



Critical Thinking by Induction

The Problem

- Goal
 - Critical thinking about information consumption
- Roadblock 1
 - Naming and shaming sources can create pushback in politically charged times
- Roadblock 2
 - Principle in *ACRL Framework* Frame “Authority Is Constructed and Contextual”

A Potential Solution

- Rooted in *ACRL Framework* Frame “Information Creation as a Process”
- Avoid talking about “good” or “accurate” or “bad” or “inaccurate” news sources
- Focus on:
 - How the news gets from field observations to published/broadcast products
 - The social/cognitive psychology behind how we decide whether we will believe the information we consume

Putting the Idea into Practice:

January-Term 2019 Course at New College of Florida

Curriculum Content

- The journalistic process
- The social and cognitive psychology of information evaluation
- Fact-checking platforms
- Information hygiene

Activities

- Guest Speakers
 - Journalists
 - Politicians
 - Psychologists
 - Counselors
- Field Trip
 - ABC station in Sarasota, Florida



Jane Bancroft Cook Library at New College of Florida. Everett Nunnally. 2016.

Final Projects

- Media product on topic of student's choice related to misinformation and disinformation in the news or on social media
- Topics included:
 - Fossil fuel industry disinformation about climate change
 - Tobacco industry disinformation about tobacco use
 - Russian disinformation campaigns in Europe
 - Video games and mass shootings
 - Persistence of debunked news stories (Kitty Genovese and the Central Park Five)

Students' Key Takeaways

As Indicated on a Post-Course Free-Response Assessment

- The impact on public perception of editorial decisions about what information to include or exclude in a published or broadcast story
- The importance of maintaining healthy information hygiene

Thank You.

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