

## Activity: "Shockwaves"

1. Tell students to take 5 minutes to read through this example of **misinformation**:

Emma and her neighbours were having coffee at their local cafe. As they were catching up, Emma pulled out her phone to show her friends a post that had caught her attention. "I saw this amazing post yesterday!" Emma exclaimed. With a few taps, she pulled up a colourful infographic listing the supposed benefits of garlic, shared by a popular wellness influencer. "It says eating a spoonful of raw garlic every morning cures colds in just three days!"

Her friends leaned in, intrigued. "Really? That sounds incredible," Sarah replied, jotting this new info down in her notes app. "My mom has a cold right now. I'll tell her to try that!"

As the week went on, Emma's friends eagerly shared the garlic remedy post on their own social media profiles, eager to pass on what they believed was valuable health advice. Sarah, Mannan, and several others reposted it, encouraging their followers to try the "miracle cure."

Countless people saw the post and began adding garlic to their daily diets, hopeful that it would ward off the upcoming flu season.

What Emma and her friends didn't realize was that the influencer's post lacked any scientific basis. It was based solely on personal beliefs rather than medical research. The graphic looked professional and was convincingly presented, but it didn't reflect verified facts.

A few weeks later, Emma's group met up again at the coffee shop. Sarah was the first to speak up, a puzzled expression on her face. "Hey, did anyone actually feel better after eating all that garlic?"



Mannan shook his head, a wry smile forming. "I didn't notice any difference. If anything, my breath was just really, really strong."

Emma frowned, suddenly unsure. "I wonder if that post was actually true. Did any of us check where it came from?"

The group fell into an awkward silence, realizing none of them had verified the information before sharing it. They had innocently contributed to spreading misinformation. Reflecting on the incident, Emma made a mental note to be more cautious about what she shared online in the future. As they finished their coffee and parted ways, each friend made a pact to double-check the sources of health advice before hitting the "share" button again.

Little did they know, their experience would serve as a cautionary tale for many others who encountered similar tempting, yet unverified, claims on social media.

*\*This story was written by ChatGPT.*

2. Tell students to take 5 minutes to read through this example of **disinformation**:

Jake sat hunched over his laptop, a mischievous glint in his eyes and a plan forming in his mind. He had always been good with computers, but today he wasn't hacking into systems or coding for fun. Instead, he was going to spread a rumour for his own gain.

Jake and his friend recently started selling gummies online. Jake decided that instead of marketing the gummies as a fun snack, he would tell people that they had health benefits. He started marketing the gummies online, claiming that they could cure everything from fatigue to chronic pain.



With a few clicks, Jake created a fake social media profile under the guise of a satisfied customer named "HealthEnthusiast89". He posted a glowing review of the gummy, claiming it had changed his life and cured aches and pains he'd struggled with for years. To add credibility, Jake scoured the internet for generic stock photos and used them as profile pictures.

Within hours, Jake's post gained traction. Other users commented, asking where they could buy the gummy, and sharing the post with their friends and followers. Encouraged by the initial success, Jake escalated his efforts. He created multiple fake accounts, each with a unique backstory and convincing testimonial about the gummy. Some claimed it had helped them lose weight, while others swore it had improved their concentration.

As the days passed, the disinformation campaign spread like wildfire across social media platforms. Influencers unwittingly shared Jake's posts, believing they were providing valuable health advice to their followers. But Jake didn't stop there. He started engaging with critics who questioned the gummy's efficacy, using his fake accounts to defend the product. He made up arguments and manipulated discussions to create an illusion of widespread support for the supplement.

However, Jake's web of deception couldn't hold forever. A diligent health journalist stumbled upon inconsistencies in the glowing reviews and decided to investigate further. With careful scrutiny, they traced the origins of the fake profiles back to Jake's IP address.

One morning, Jake awoke to a knock on his door. It was the authorities, armed with a search warrant and questions about his online activities. Jake's elaborate scheme had unravelled, and he now faced legal consequences for fraud and spreading false information.

As he sat in the interrogation room, Jake realized the consequences of his actions. He had exploited people's trust and manipulated their health decisions for his own selfish gains. It was a sobering lesson—one that would haunt him for years to come.

*\*This story was written by ChatGPT*



3. Take 3 minutes to look at the final piece of content:



**The most profitable shares** · Follow  
January 2 at 7:47 AM · 🌐

I got some exciting news to share! I have teamed up with Lé Creuset for another epic gift-away - But this time we're giving away FREE 20 piece cookware sets!

**HEY Y'ALL,**

0:00 / 0:31

KAXOGEI.INFO  
Taylor Swift`s BIG New Year Giveaway

Apply now

"In Ms. Swift's case, experts said, artificial intelligence technology helped create a synthetic version of the singer's voice, which was cobbled together with footage of her alongside clips showing Le Creuset Dutch ovens. In several ads, Ms. Swift's cloned voice addressed "Swifties" – her fans – and said she was "thrilled" to be handing out free cookware sets. All people had to do was click on a button and answer a few questions before the end of the day." (source: [New York Times](#))

