

Ty Ankrom's Here's What I Think ...

The phrase "fake news"

has become commonplace after the last election cycle and as students use the media as a resource, it's also important to teach them how to know what to use.



and find dozens of "news" outlets – from the venerated to the questionable.

Just as most of us would dissuade learners from relying on Wikipedia as a trustworthy resource for research, we also need to provide students with media literacy skills.

An article in last week's *USA Today* highlighted four qualities of good journalism that readers should recognize (www.eschoolnews.com/2017/03/10/ew-usa-today-media-literacy/):

- Journalism should be complete, including all sides and spectrums of a story.
- It should be honest, letting people know of any biases.
- It should be accurate and fact-checked down to every last detail.
- Journalism should be fair, regardless of any biases involved

Explaining those four tenants can help students determine if an article is newsworthy.

In years past, current events assignments required students to read newspapers, clip articles and then discuss with classmates the news aspect of the article.

Generally, a household subscribed to a single newspaper that contained local, national and world news.

But, according to the Pew Research Center, in 2015 "weekday circulation fell 7 percent and Sunday circulation fell 4 percent, both showing their greatest declines since 2010."

Today, anyone can go online

Katie Hewitt, an English teacher at Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center, works with students in the library on a computer research project.



March 17, 2017

Common Sense Media, a non-profit organization that promotes helping young people understand the media and technology, suggests that adults encourage young people to:

- Be skeptical of what they're reading;
- Recognize different types of news – investigative journalism and editorials, for example, are different;
- Examine the source – a "study" promoting the benefits of a product that was paid for by that product may lack objectivity.

Resources for educators can be found on Common Sense Media's Web site at www.common-sensemedia.org/educators.

Ty Ankrom is the superintendent of the Pickaway County Educational Service Center. He can be reached at ty.ankrom@pickawayesc.org.