



Interreg



EUROPEAN UNION

Danube Transnational Programme

MELIA Observatory

HANDBOOK

FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

**News
and
Hoaxes**

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Project Summary

Citizen's competence is of crucial importance for active political participation, which is one of the main components of good governance and sustainable democracy. Especially in the Eastern part of the Danube region, political participation is stagnating. Particularly worrisome are the apathy and lack of political interest on the side of younger population. Furthermore, in the last years, we witness political developments that result in deterioration of democratic standards in many parts of the region. The core element of the citizen's competence is high level of media literacy. It is necessary for citizens' reflection of social reality and their resilience to negative media phenomena, like hate speech and fake news.

The main objective of the project is to improve democratic transnational governance by developing transnational media literacy observatory, based on cooperation between different relevant stakeholders. In many countries of the Danube region the development of competences of media literacy and active citizenship are far behind more developed parts of Europe. This observatory will serve as a mechanism for increasing media literacy and thus strengthening citizens' competences what will contribute to development of sustainable democracy. The main target groups are the youth and the people who work with them. For the purpose of strengthening it, the observatory will provide tools, available for both young people as well as their educators.

The project will establish observatory for media literacy that will provide instruments for scrutinising media contents, training tools and policy recommendations for upgrading media literacy in relation with other civic skills. Outputs include: capacity building and training tools, web-based interface and policy recommendations. The core activities of the project are: mapping of practices and dissemination of information, developing learning system, designing web training platform, and pilot testing.

How to work with this Handbook and interactive presentation

Dear students,

this handbook serves as a guide for an interactive presentation on the topic of „News and Hoaxes“.

Open the interactive presentation in a new window of your browser. If you work independently, open it on your computer, or you can project it on an interactive whiteboard.

To work with the presentation, open or print this document.

The presentation contains several slides (presentation slides) with teaching material and visual content. Read and view each slide carefully. If you see an “i” icon on the slide in the lower left corner, click on it. Under it, there is additional information or examples that will help you better understand the issue.

Some slides have interactive elements in addition to the „i“ button. These elements are highlighted. When you click on them, you will learn more information (there can for example an audio sample, video or additional information). You will also find an audio icon in the presentation. Some slides contain sound. If necessary, you can click on the sound icon to mute or reactivate the sound in the presentation.

Click on the right arrow for the next slide. If you want to go back in the presentation, click on the left arrow. To go back to the very beginning of the presentation, click on the house icon.

For better orientation in the text, individual slides are gradually displayed with additional educational material and further expansion of teaching.

The text is interspersed with **definitions**, because you come across some terms for the first time and it is advisable to remember them. Also pay attention to the **Interesting facts**.

Caption to the texts in the handbook:



INTERESTING FACT



DEFINITIONS

Introduction to the lesson

The online world, as well as the printed media, are a source of unsubstantiated information and hoaxes. The ability to detect fiction in the online environment is also hampered by the rapid development of technology and its sophisticated use in the online media environment. Exposing the lies is therefore becoming more and more difficult. A person uneducated in this area does not check what he sees on the Internet, on TV, on the radio, in magazines... And not only does he automatically believe it, he even spreads this content further (shares, likes, comments, talks about it...)!

In the lesson, you will learn what the most important elements of media communication are and, with the help of a practical sample with a topic close to them, you will learn the difference between news and journalism. In the next part of the lesson, you will learn to define and recognize disinformation and find out where they are used (propaganda, troll farms or conspiracy theories).

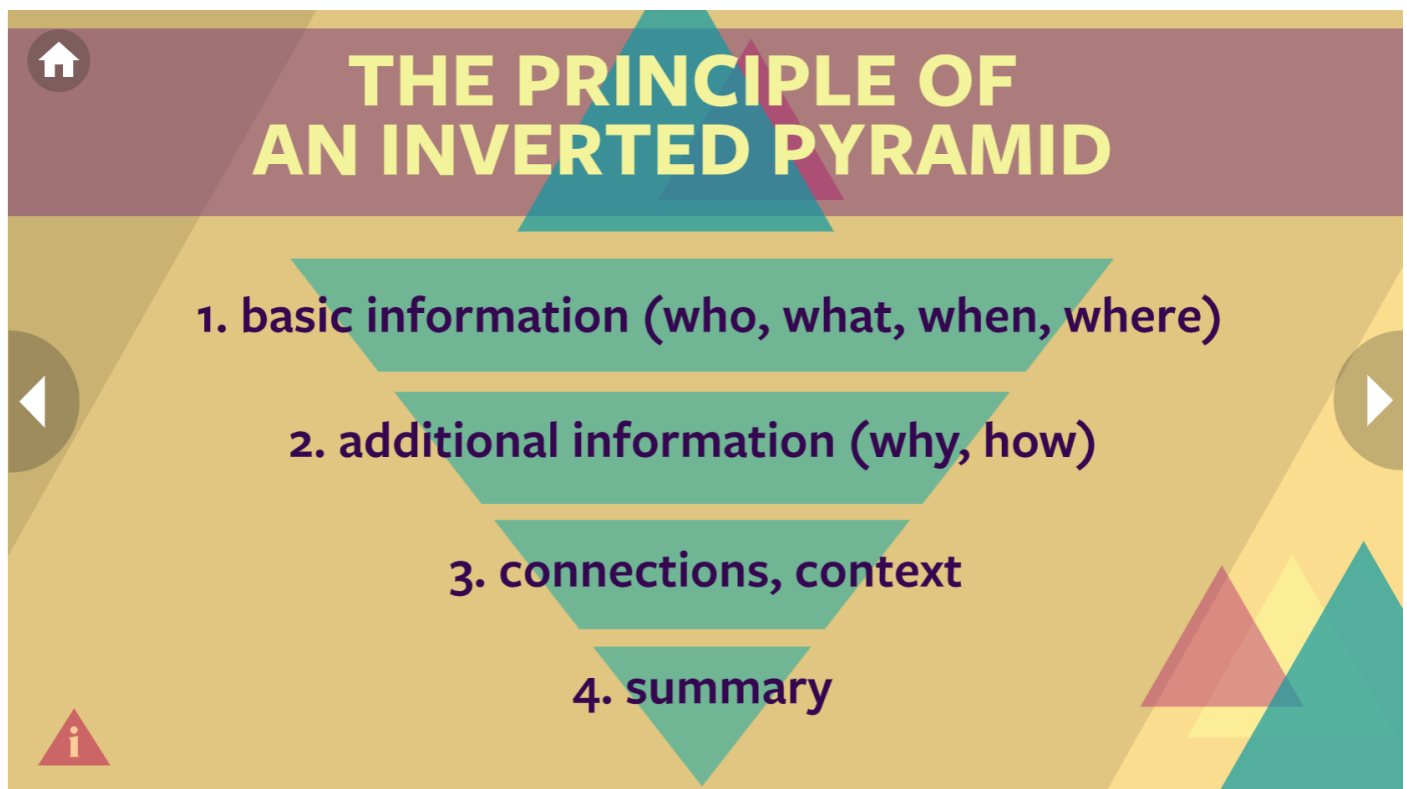
Disinformation is a big bait for a democratic society and therefore it is necessary to pay closer attention to this topic. How you can verify for yourself, recognizing disinformation or hoaxes is very difficult even for adults. Discuss with them what is happening in the country and in the world, ask questions, take an interest and look for information. Let us try to reduce the spread of disinformation and hoaxes together.

Inverted pyramid technique

Where do you most often read something from the news?

The rapidly changing technologies and popularity of internet media offer us a **really huge source of online information**, as well as news portals that **compete with each other**.

They must be the fastest, have the most interesting image or video and also a headline that will interest us and force us to read the article. How the article is written and divided is also important - if you wanted to read the news that your favourite singer is getting divorced, you would not be interested in a long introduction about where he was born and what hit made him famous. You want to know directly what happened and why he is divorcing! The authors use the so-called **inverted pyramid technique**.



This means:

- ▶ **the most important information is at the beginning;**
- ▶ less important follow;
- ▶ the context (so-called background) is at the end.

However, the inverted pyramid model is not typical for only online news, you can also find it in classic television and newspaper news.



In journalism, **the inverted pyramid** refers to a story structure where the most important information (or what might even be considered the conclusion) is presented first. The who, what, when, where and why appear at the beginning of the story, followed by supporting details and background information.



Remember:

- Do not miss anything.
- News should not be too short.
- The most important information should be at the beginning.
- There is the principle of priority of information in the text.
- The attention is highest at the beginning and it gradually decreases.



When you hear some news, try to identify important informations from the message:

who, what, when, where, why and how.



INTERESTING FACT

For memorization, students can use German words that begin with “W”:

German language: wer, was, wann, wo, warum, wie

It is important to remain **objective** when creating report.

What does it mean to be objective?



Objective = impartial, reflecting reality. An objective news provides impartial information about what is really going on.

The main features of objectivity include:

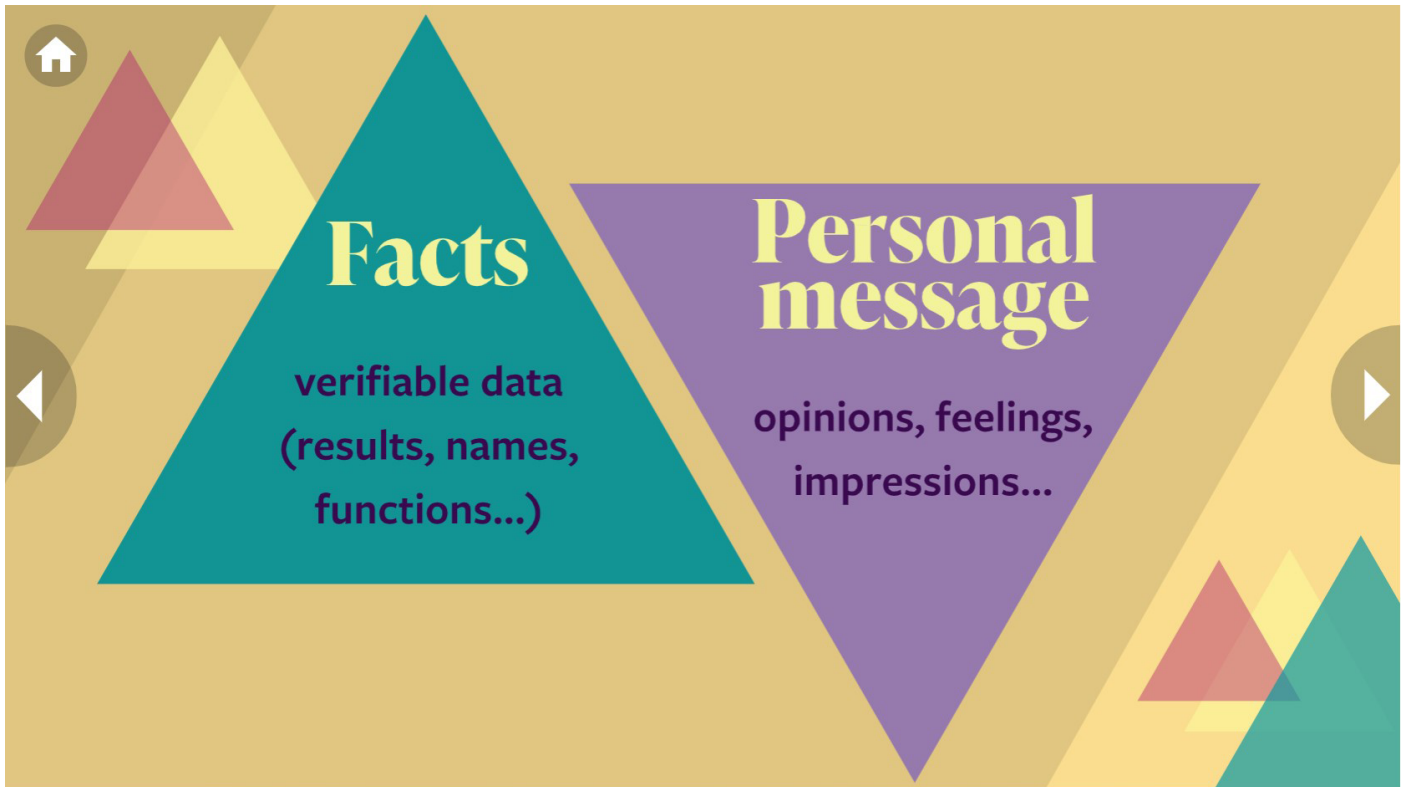
- ▶ distance and neutrality in relation to the subject of the news;
- ▶ impartiality (i.e. not be inclined to any of the parties in disputes);
- ▶ completeness of information;
- ▶ absence of hidden motives or third party services.

The report should be **factual, accurate, complete, reliable.**

Facts and personal message

What we must distinguish?

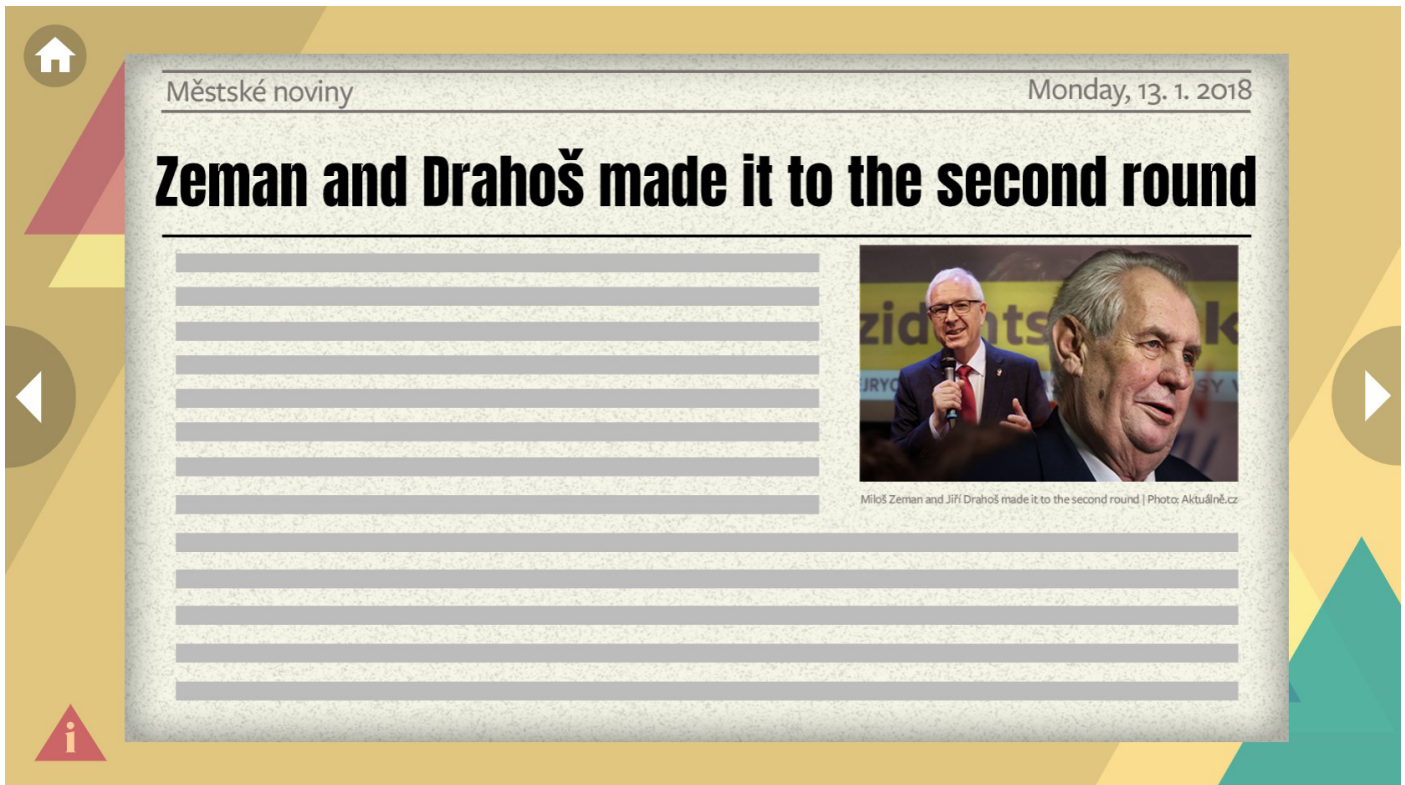
Whether the content of the message reaches us as an article or as a video, we should always distinguish what we learn.



Facts are verifiable data, results, names, positions of named representatives...

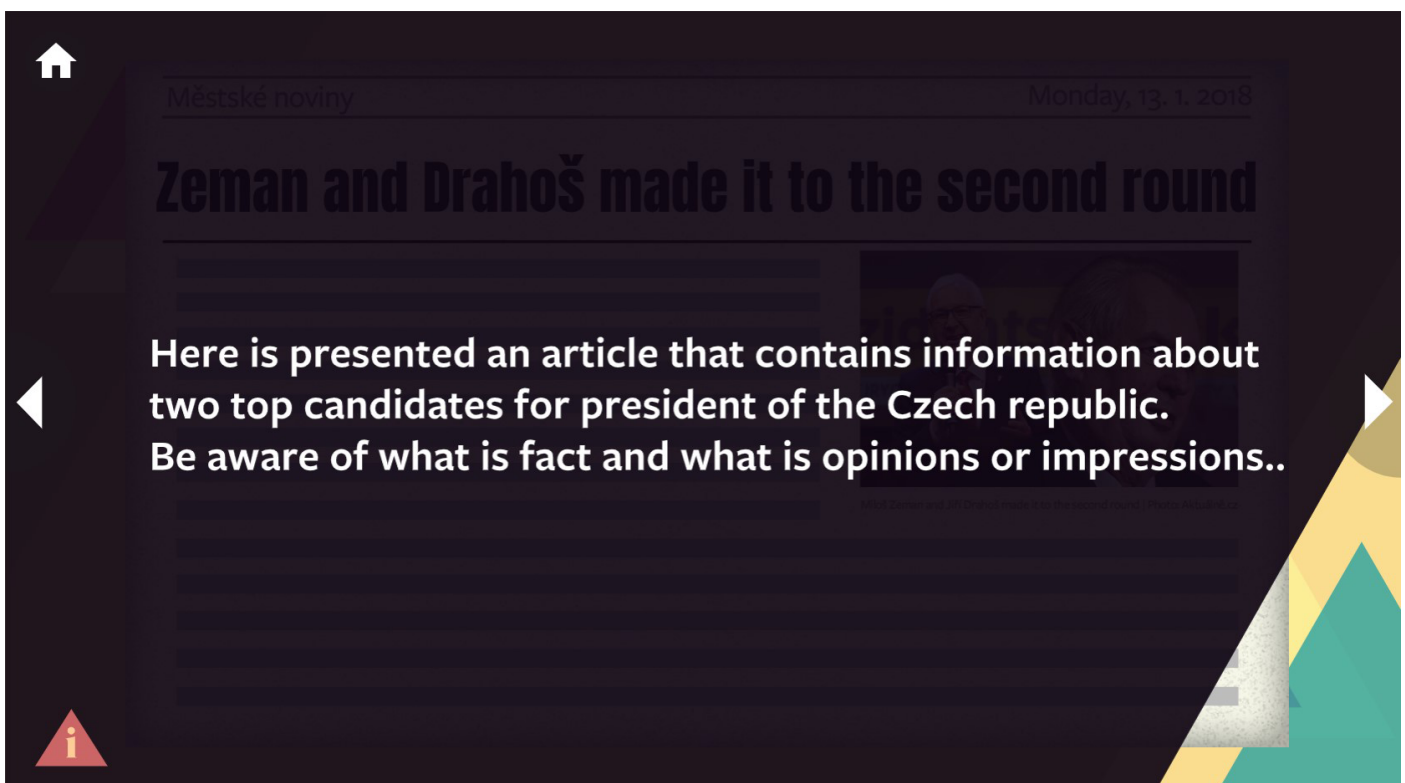
The author's **personal messages** are what the author puts into the text based on his/her opinion and feelings about how he/she interprets the information.

Facts and personal message - example



Who are Zeman and Drahoš? What unites them?

These are Czech politicians who ran in the elections for President of the Czech Republic in 2018.



Facts and personal message - example

2nd part

What information do you think are the facts?


What will we learn if we are presented with a personal message?

Why?

Městské noviny Monday, 13. 1. 2018

ZEMAN AND DRAHOŠ MADE IT TO THE SECOND ROUND

The results of the first round of the presidential election surprised many voters. Either Miloš Zeman will remain the Czech president or he will be replaced by Jiří Drahoš. With 99.9 % of the districts counted, Zeman got 38.59 % of the votes and Drahoš got 26.60 %.



Miloš Zeman and Jiří Drahoš made it to the second round | Photo: Aktuálně.cz

Zeman won in all regions except Prague.
The argumentative abilities of his opponent prevailed in the capital.

It is alarming that only 61.9% of voters went to the polls.

Drahoš wants to debate with Zeman in the media and he unexpectedly agrees.

Facts
Personal message

Facts or personal messages?

On the slide you can see the (slightly modified) text of the article. Take a look at it and try to recognize what information from the text we can mark as **factual**.

Distinguish between **facts** and **personal messages of the author**. First read the text together to know what we will be working with.

What did you learn?

Do you see that the pink colored sentences are more subjective?

Now try to distinguish for each sentence whether it is a *fact* or a *personal message of the author*.

How are the texts different?

This slide shows the text in two versions.

How are the texts different?

The results of the first round of the presidential election surprised many voters. Either Miloš Zeman will remain the Czech president or he will be replaced by Jiří Drahoš. With 99.9 % of the districts counted, Zeman got 38.59 % of the votes and Drahoš got 26.60 %.

Zeman won in all regions except Prague. The argumentative abilities of his opponent prevailed in the capital. It is alarming that only 61.9% of voters went to the polls. Drahoš wants to debate with Zeman in the media and he unexpectedly agrees.

Facts **Personal message**

The votes of the first round of the presidential election are in. Either Miloš Zeman will remain the Czech president or he will be replaced by Jiří Drahoš. With 99.9 % of the districts counted, Zeman got 38.59 % of the votes and Drahoš got 26.60 %.

Zeman won in all regions except Prague. His opponent won in the capital. 61.9 % of voters went to the polls. Drahoš wants to debate with Zeman in the media and he agrees.

Facts

In the left part you can see the facts and the author's personal message.

What do you see?

The text is longer and more subjectively shaped.

On the right side of the slide, you see text that contains only facts.

It is more concise and less subjective.

News service and journalism

Distinguishing between these two types of information is one of the basic preconditions for us **to be able to understand** the content communicated.

The infographic is divided into two horizontal sections. The top section, titled 'News service', has a teal background and lists three bullet points: 'mediates facts', 'factual and objective (various sources)', and 'does not contain any attitudes of the author'. The bottom section, titled 'Journalism', has a yellow background and lists two bullet points: 'informs about current topics (based on news service)' and 'contains the personal opinions and attitudes of the author'. The entire graphic features a geometric pattern of overlapping triangles in teal, yellow, and red, and includes navigation icons (home, back, forward) and an information icon.

News service

- mediates facts
- factual and objective (various sources)
- does not contain any attitudes of the author

Journalism

- informs about current topics (based on news service)
- contains the personal opinions and attitudes of the author

Why should we know the views of others when we can make our own?

This version of the infographic has a dark background. It features the same title and bullet points as the first infographic, but with a large white text prompt in the center: 'When reading an article, remember the difference between news service and journalism.' The text 'news service' and 'journalism' are bolded. The graphic also includes the same geometric patterns and navigation icons.

News service

- mediates facts
- factual and objective (various sources)
- does not contain any attitudes of the author

When reading an article, remember the difference between **news service** and **journalism**.

- informs about current topics (based on news service)
- contains the personal opinions and attitudes of the author

What are the characteristics of News services and Journalism?

The basic difference between news and journalism is that in **journalistic** texts we also read the **author's evaluation**: what he **thinks** about the topic, how he **perceives** it, what his opinion is. And with that we have to approach the text as well. It is necessary to be able to distinguish which parts of the text are facts and which are the author's personal message.

News Service

Basic genres: news, news report, news article, news interview...

Journalism

Basic genres: author's article, commentary, news report, reflection, column...

Selection of messages

On what basis is it decided which information the media will publish?

TV news contains primarily newer events that involve specific people (often politicians, actors, singers...). They often contain negative and surprising topics that are close to people and have an impact on their lives.



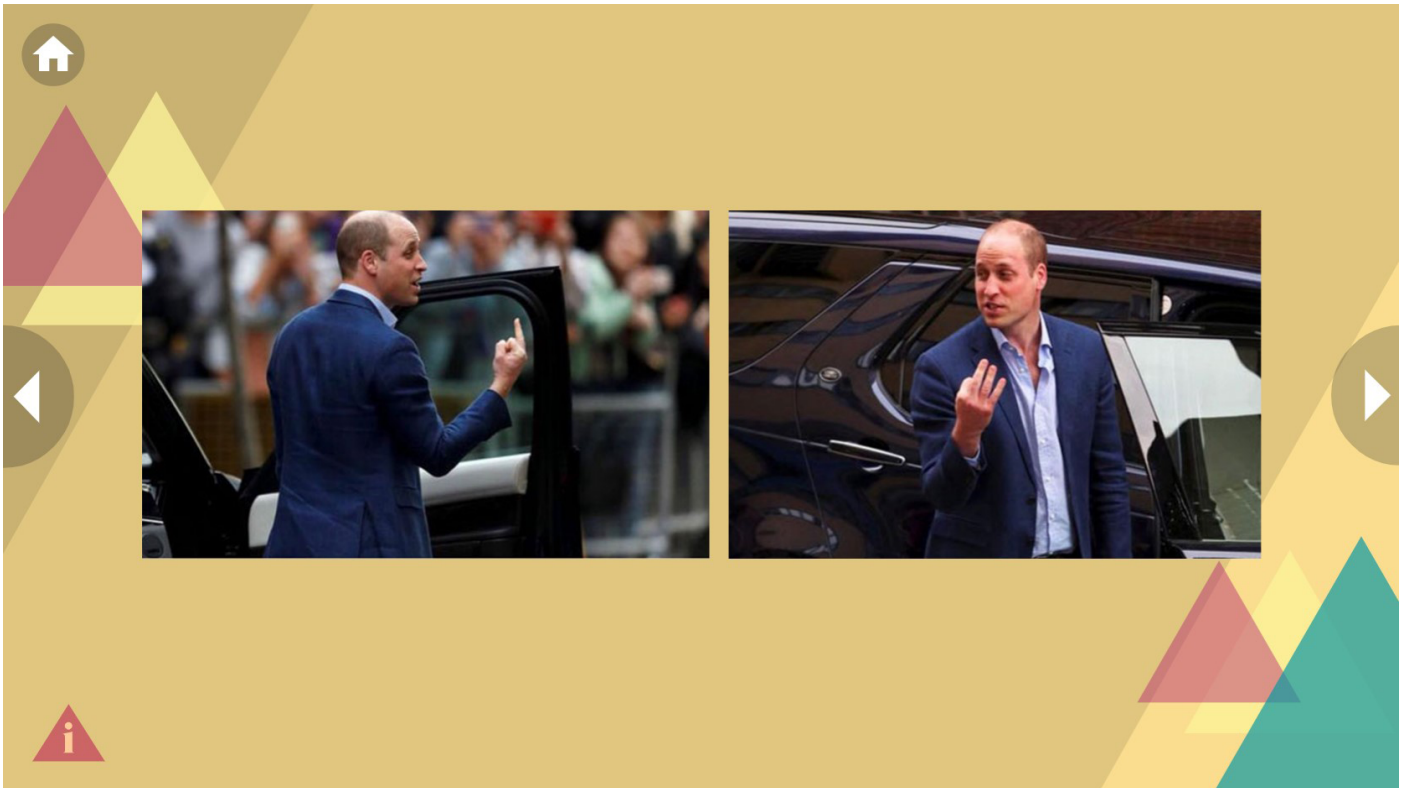
INTERESTING FACT

News features = criteria by which the news is (not) included in the content of mass media news.

Gatekeeper = a person who selects the news/information to be received from media.

Interpretation

The form in which the news reaches us also depends on the author's ability to interpret (explain) the information correctly.



People can interpret the same event in different ways, which can be intensified, for example, by having different information about it.

Each news is basically a story that we can tell in different ways. Just by using the words, the photos, the sequence of events we mention..., we can influence its interpretation.

The ability to choose appropriate and quality resources is an important but time-consuming skill. However, if we make the initial investment of time and select sources that report objectively and accurately (or publicly state their errors), it will make it easier to track down and verify information and minimise the spread of false and alarmist news.



Interpretation = explanation (e.g. of the text). Reframing, or otherwise showing own understanding of something.



When you report something, think about correct interpretation:

1. Inform about all the essentials.
2. Do not hide any information.



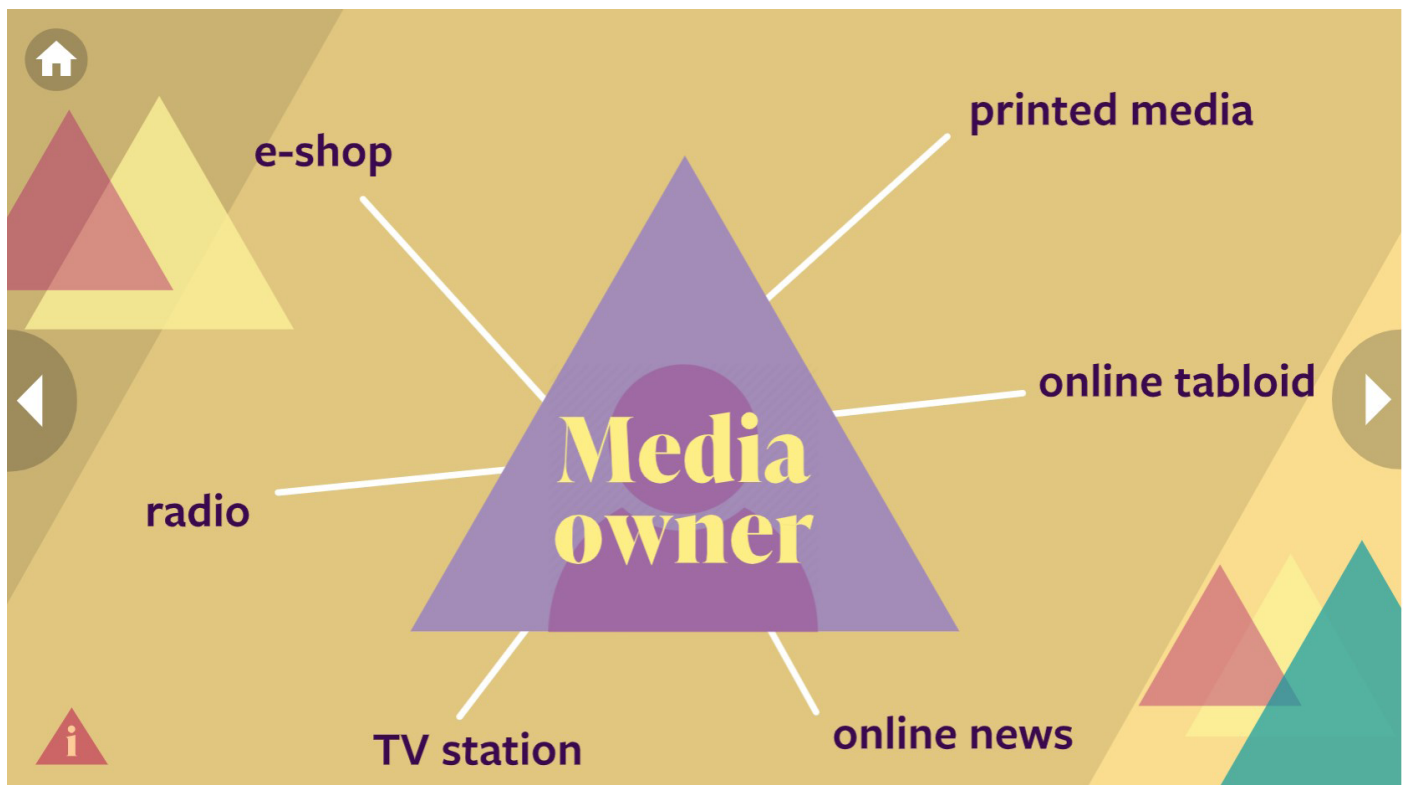
Even if it is only a record of an event, which will not be accompanied by any comments or the author's own statement, there will always be different interpretations for different people.



When you report something (to your friends or family) remember to inform them about all the essentials and do not hide any information.

Media owner

Imagine that there is an entrepreneur (a private entity) who also owns various media. He may own a radio, TV station, online news or online tabloid.



What could that mean? He can easily advertise his e-shop on the radio and even in the press, or highlight information that is useful to him in his other business.

In some states, there were/are state media - the state has power and control over state media. Find out how it is in your country - do you have access to state or public media?

What kind of private media do you know?

For each bullet on the slide, try to find a specific example of private media in your country.

Do you think media owners can influence the content of the media they own?

Take a look at the info button.


Do you think media owners can influence the content of the media they own?
Yes, they can.

They influence **when** and **what** will be in the media.

If they want to amplify some statement, they will publish it in several media channels. E.g. in their TV station, radio, online press and newspaper. This purposefully influences public opinion.

How can media owners influence media content?

They do not intentionally disclose information about themselves.
They create articles aimed at their opponents.

 TV station online news

Example of a media owner from the Czech Republic

Mr. Babiš owns MF Dnes, a popular daily newspaper in the Czech Republic. Among other things, he is the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic and a prominent businessman. At least once a month, this newspaper publishes an article about Andrej Babiš (he is also pictured on the front page).

This media owner clearly asks his own questions (the questions are not conflicting in any way) and it is basically a presentation of a political agenda rather than an objective interview. Mr. Babiš uses media as an agenda-setting tool.

Hoax

In the first part of the lesson we focused on news. But hoaxes are also an essential part of the lesson. If you haven't heard of them before, read on to find out what they mean. We will introduce a topic that is important for all of us and we encounter it more or less every day.

Do you know what the word Hoax means?
Are you able to give an example?



The slide features a background of overlapping triangles in shades of yellow, brown, and teal. At the top left is a home icon, and at the bottom left is a red warning triangle with a white exclamation mark. The word 'HOAX' is written in large, bold, yellow-green letters in the center. Below it, the definition is written in a purple, italicized font: 'Hoax is false alarm message that spreads mostly in the media. It often warns against non-existent danger.'



Every day you encounter a huge amount of information, messages and statements. Sometimes there are so many that we don't even think about them. And that's a mistake.



It can easily happen that we overlook something, do not pay attention to it and later find out that we have been caught. It's usually too late to regret it. **Therefore it is good to train your mindfulness and ability to argue.**



We already know what a hoax is. You can find hoaxes in tabloids but sometimes also in serious newspapers. They also often come to you during an innocent conversation with a friend. He or she may have heard the message somewhere and interpreted it further. And because you hear it from a friend, it may not even occur to you that it might not be true.

INTERESTING FACT



Dissemination of an alarm message is a crime!

The dissemination of an alarm message has been marked in the Czech Republic as a criminal offence since 2009 (Section 357 of the Penal Code). You can be convicted to up to 5 years in prison.

Try to find out what the law says in your country.



Fake news = fake messages that are written to look like solid information. They are created in order to influence public opinion.

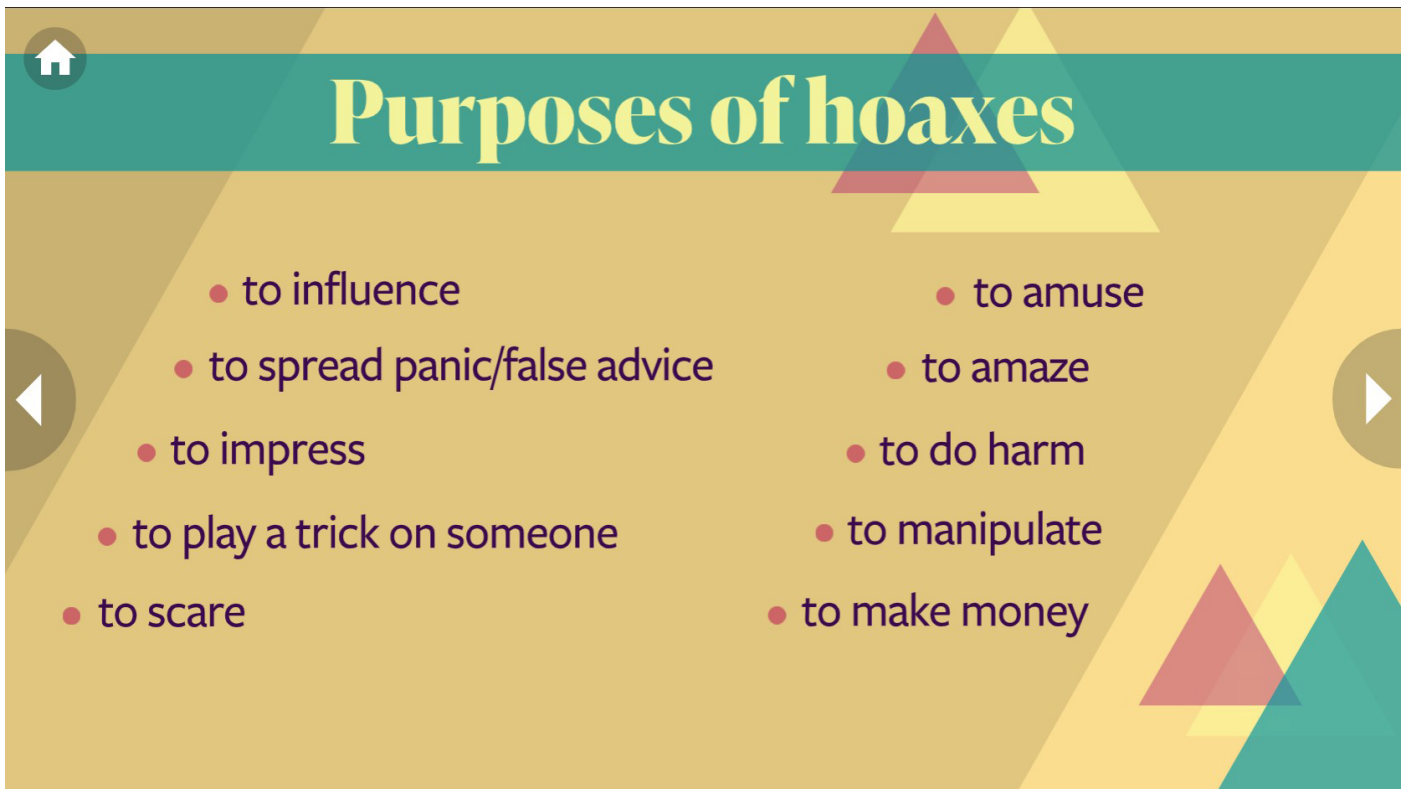
Purposes of hoaxes

There are existing several purposes of hoaxes. Some are harmless (such as to amuse or to impress). Others are intended to affect serious things (such as to manipulate is used a lot in politics).

Write down possible answers and discuss with your classmates and teacher:

What is the purpose of hoaxes?

Why are hoaxes created?



Purposes of hoaxes

- to influence
- to spread panic/false advice
- to impress
- to play a trick on someone
- to scare
- to amuse
- to amaze
- to do harm
- to manipulate
- to make money

INTERESTING FACT



Bullshit Detector

Google.com offers the option to install the “Bullshit Detector”, which will warn you if you visit a page that is on the list of untrustworthy sources.

Do you recognise hoax and truth?

You already know what a Hoax is and why it's made.
But let's try it out in practice to see if you can recognize it.
Do you know what to do when you hear a Hoax?



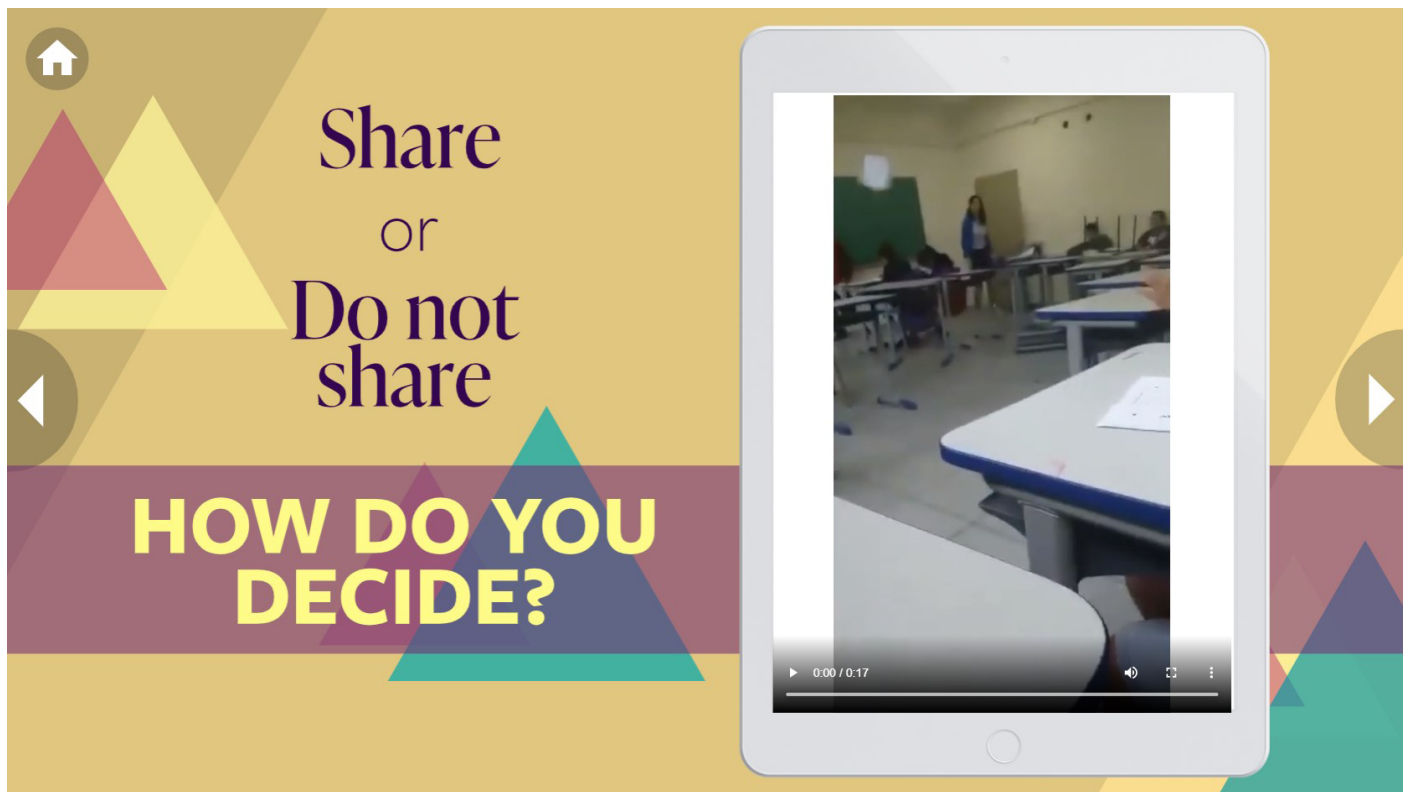
Hoax or true?

Decide whether the following examples are hoaxes or not. If so, think about what its goal is (amusement, manipulation, deliberate deception).
Then click to the following slide and check your guess.

Sample 1

Look closely at the video displayed on the tablet.

Would you share such a video (for example, by sending it to your friends in a message or on your profile)?



Click on the next slide to find out what the video really is about.

~~Share~~
or
Do not share
containing alarm messages

This video was presented on the Internet recently. Pupils are presented as children of immigrants in Europe (the aim of the image is the inability to integrate and adapt). In reality, however, this is a video from a Brazilian school in which similar attacks are common (due to the issue of the school's location).

Such content would not be good to share. You'd be helping to spread alarm messages. Verify the content by searching the internet for credible sources.

Sample 2

Look closely at the video displayed on the phone. Would you share such a post (for example, by sending it to your friends in a message or on your profile)?



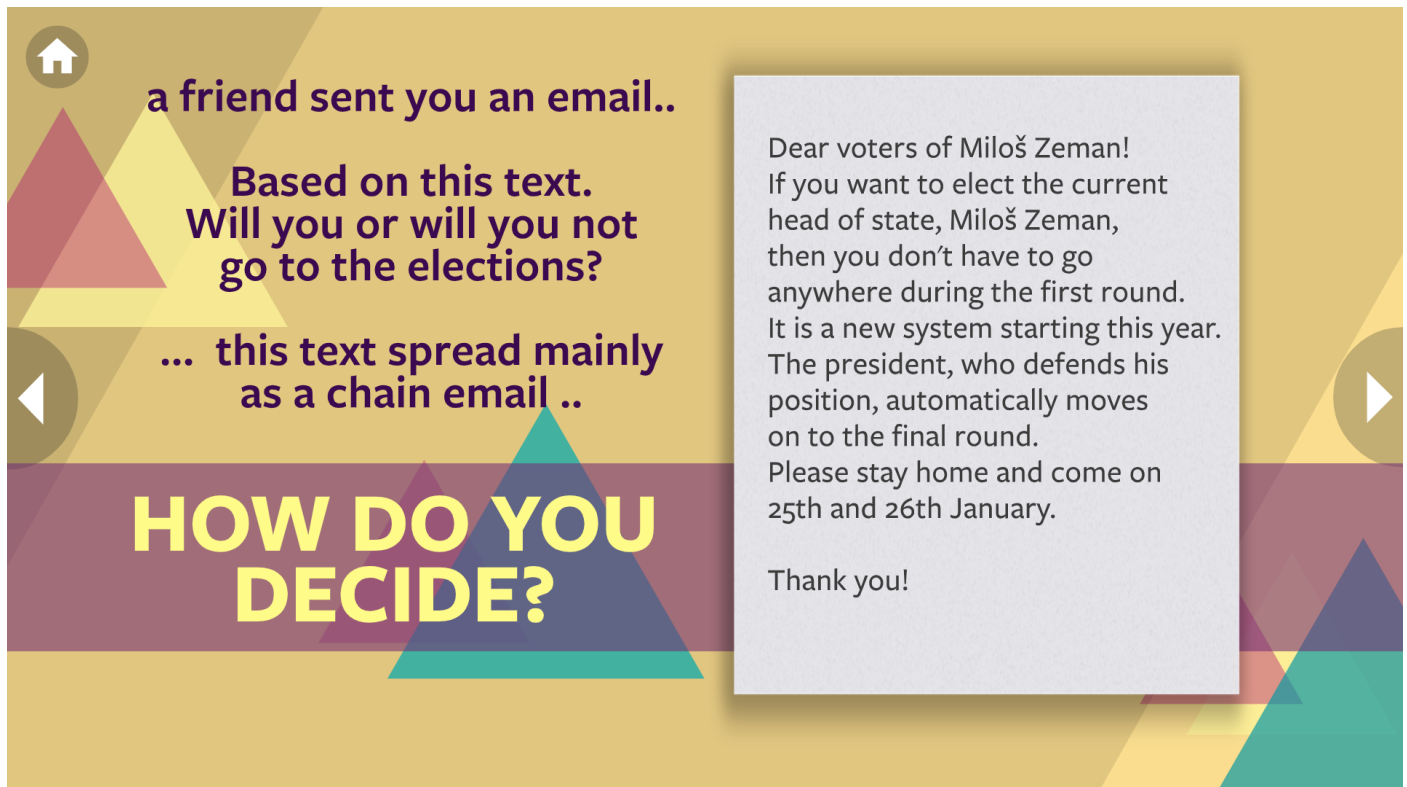
Click on the next slide to find out what the video really is about.



Such content would not be good to share.
You should even better report such a post.
Verify the content by searching the internet for credible sources.

Sample 3

Would you share such an email (for example, by sending it to your friends in a message)?



Home icon

a friend sent you an email..

Based on this text.
Will you or will you not
go to the elections?

... this text spread mainly
as a chain email ..

Left arrow icon

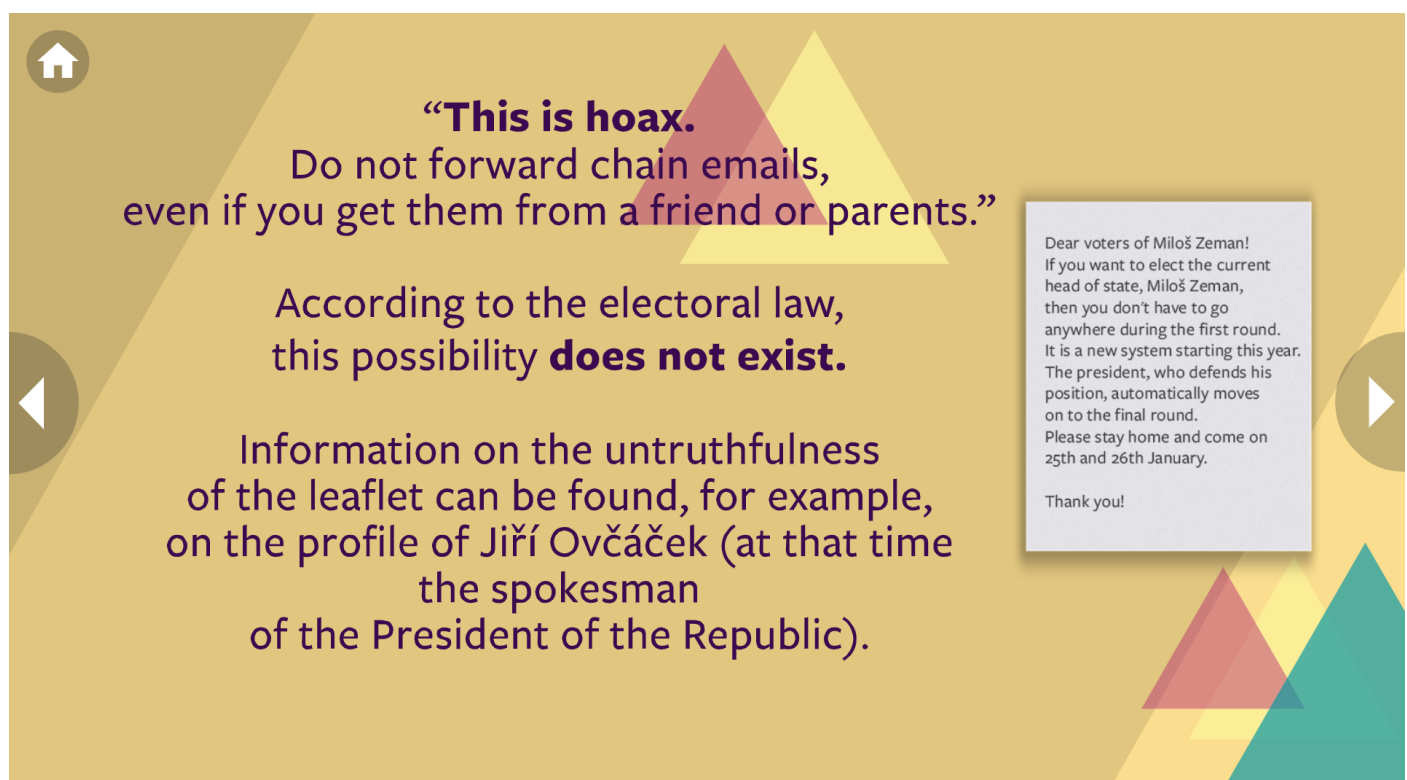
**HOW DO YOU
DECIDE?**

Right arrow icon

Dear voters of Miloš Zeman!
If you want to elect the current
head of state, Miloš Zeman,
then you don't have to go
anywhere during the first round.
It is a new system starting this year.
The president, who defends his
position, automatically moves
on to the final round.
Please stay home and come on
25th and 26th January.

Thank you!

Click on the next slide to find out.



Home icon

“This is hoax.
Do not forward chain emails,
even if you get them from a friend or parents.”

According to the electoral law,
this possibility **does not exist.**

Information on the untruthfulness
of the leaflet can be found, for example,
on the profile of Jiří Ovčáček (at that time
the spokesman
of the President of the Republic).

Left arrow icon

Right arrow icon

Dear voters of Miloš Zeman!
If you want to elect the current
head of state, Miloš Zeman,
then you don't have to go
anywhere during the first round.
It is a new system starting this year.
The president, who defends his
position, automatically moves
on to the final round.
Please stay home and come on
25th and 26th January.

Thank you!

How do hoaxes reach us?

Hoaxes operate with potential danger. The feeling of danger is not pleasant for a person. In an effort to warn other people spread information further - by email, through social networks, applications, verbally... (the goal may also be not to be left with an alarm message alone, to be aware that we are in this together). Hoaxes can therefore be shared with you by your friends, but also by parents, grandparents, teachers... Foreign disinformation websites are a frequent source.



INTERESTING FACT

Errors as indicators of disinformation

Errors in language used to be frequent indicators for readers to be careful. They often indicated a machine translation of unverified reports. Today we already encounter perfectly processed hoaxes and disinformation articles. Grammatical correctness should not be the main guide for us in recognizing misleading messages.



INTERESTING FACT

Dissemination of an alarm message

A woman who shared a record about the planned total quarantine (at the time of the beginning of the spread of the covid-19 disease), which will be supervised by the army, was probably having a hard time. Dissemination of an alarm message is considered a criminal offence, which can lead to up to eight years in prison during a state of emergency.

This example is from the Czech Republic.

Conclusion

You were introduced to the term “hoax” - you can explain what a hoax is and for what purpose it is created. You tried to distinguish what a hoax is and what it is not.

You have seen in specific examples that hoaxes occur very often, and that their intention may be to entertain (for example, April Fool’s jokes) or even to manipulate the reader.

Disinformation

DISINFORMATION

We talked about the media, hoaxes and how to be knowledgeable in information. But there is also disinformation.

***disinformation** = the deliberate creation and sharing of false and/or manipulated information that is intended to deceive and mislead the audience, either for the purposes of causing harm, or for political, personal or financial gain.*

In today's world, however, we must also be able to deal with disinformation. They are hard to spot because they are cleverly inserted between the true news.

Why? Because someone is making them for a **purpose**. See the next slides for more information.

For what purpose is disinformation created?

You should know the purpose of disinformation. It may come in handy when you doubt the validity of information in an article or report.

For what purpose is disinformation created?

- **for profit** (you will serve the creator as someone who shared his post or he will benefit from you sharing the post)
- **for reaching the author's political goals**

How does disinformation relate to the internet and social networks?

How does disinformation relate to the internet and social networks?

Once **disinformation** has been initially published online by its creators, it can be spread by individual social media users. Ordinary people may propagate the material on their own social network accounts through deliberate sharing – it is a core function of platforms such as Facebook and Twitter. Other interactions, such as ‘liking’, also trigger the algorithms of social media platforms to display it to other users. This is a phenomenon known as ‘organic reach’.

It can lead to exponential spreading of false information.

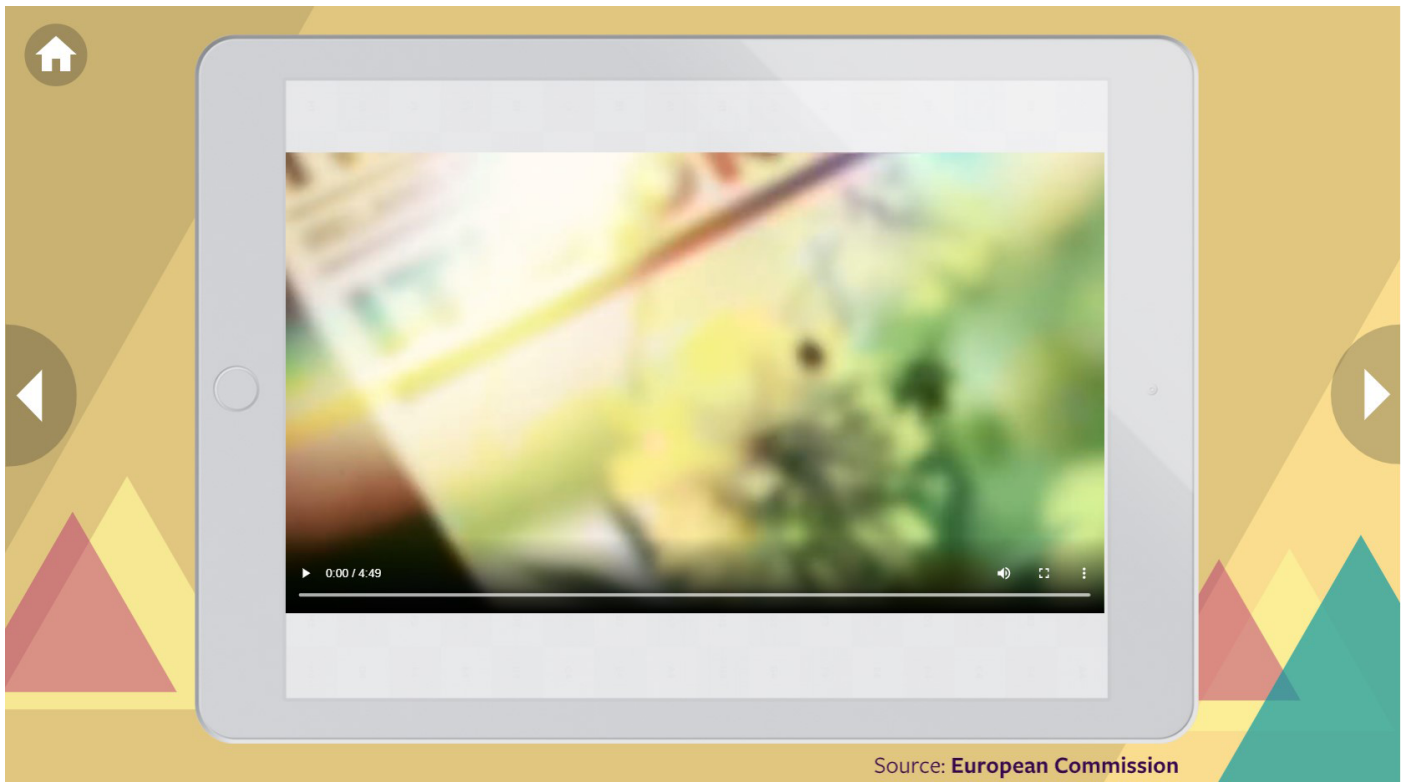
Video about disinformation

The spread of disinformation is a major problem in today's world.

You can watch this video by the **European Commission** official Youtube channel.

(The advantage of watching the original is that you can choose the language of the subtitles.)

The video is longer, try to concentrate and discuss with your classmates later.



Source: **European Commission**

What information did you get and how can you use it in everyday life?

Feel free to click back through the video and return to individual passages.

Conspiracy theory

One of the tools used to create conspiracy theories is disinformation. You've probably heard the term Conspiracy theory before. If not, these two explanations should help you understand what it's all about.

Conspiracy theory

- is used almost exclusively to refer to marginal theories that explain historical or current events as a result of a secret conspiracy by a group of powerful officials
- usually claims that this group includes government, secret services, powerful corporations, or international organizations

Navigation icons: Home (top left), Previous (left), Next (right), Info (bottom left).

Can you think of any conspiracy theories?
Think before you click on the Info button.

Examples of conspiracy theories:

- Chemtrails:** also known as SLAP (Secret Large-scale Atmospheric Program). This theory alleges that water condensation trails (“contrails”) from aircraft consist of chemical or biological agents, or contain a supposedly toxic mix of aluminum, strontium and barium, under secret government policies.
- Global warming is not real:** a global warming conspiracy theory typically alleges that the science behind global warming has been invented or distorted for ideological or financial reasons. Many have promoted such theories, including former US President Donald Trump..
- Flat earth:** The Flat Earth Society promotes the idea of a “flat earth.”

Navigation icons: Home (top left), Previous (left), Next (right), Info (bottom left).

Have you ever heard of them? Did you know that wasn't true?
Look at an example from the Czech Republic.

Disinformation news in Czech media focusing on COVID-19 related issues can be divided into two categories.

1. The origin of the virus itself, discussing whether the virus is artificially constructed:

The story strongly suggested that the virus has been made artificially as a new type of weapon in biological warfare set up by China. These claims have been indirectly supported by the World Health Organization report which offered results of investigation done in laboratories in China. The impact of such fake news was the mistrust in regulation forced.

2. The bulk of fake news about vaccination:

As the leading story it is claimed that vaccination is a hidden application of new forms of power and digital surveillance (undercover micro-chipping) forced by global organizations with a pragmatic goal to trace people's activities and behaviour.

This is one of the arguments which people, who are against the vaccination, use on social media.

Disinformation in political propaganda

Disinformation in political propaganda are used for the purposes:

- to spreading rumours or political ideas (false or correct) in order to influence the opinion of society
- to distract attention from one's own problem
- to damage a political opponent
- to create a problem and then offer a solution to it

Propaganda uses disinformation very often, especially political propaganda. Disinformation in political propaganda should spread rumours or political ideas (false or correct) in order to influence the opinion of society. Also to distract attention from one's own problem, to damage a political opponent or to create a problem and then offer a solution to it.



examples in the Czech Republic: (disinformation from Russia)

According to CTHH (Center against Terrorism and Hybrid Threats, under the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic), a report by Sputnik and TV Zvezda describing events in the Czech Republic regarding demonstrations was denied.

In November 2017, the Czech version of the Russian state portal Sputnik reported that a demonstration against the "correction" of the monument to Marshal Konev in Prague 6 brought together "over 100,000 inhabitants of the Czech capital and a number of well-known politicians".

However, according to information from the Police of the Czech Republic and independent journalists, only 100 participants were present on the spot. There was also a similar report from April 2019, published by the Russian Ministry of Defense TV Zvezda. According to this report, "25,000 people protested against the EU in Prague", while according to information from the Police of the Czech Republic, approximately 600 people were on the scene.

CTHH denied the Sputnik report and also the TV Zvezda report.

You have just read a proven case of the dissemination of political propaganda from within the Czech Republic.

You can read another one, this time from the United States:

Heart of Texas

During the 2016 US presidential election, a number of fake accounts, fake social media pages and various scams were used to manipulate politically engaged social media users. One of these sites was called 'Heart of Texas' and was run by a fake account belonging to the Internet Research Agency in St Petersburg. The site focused on discussions on various topics related to migration, using symbolism, rhetoric and false identities to reach recipients. It managed to attract 350 000 supporters. In addition, more than 40 closed Facebook groups were identified as falling under the same influence operation.

Troll farms

**Do you know what troll farms are?
For what purpose are they created?**

You've probably heard the term Troll farms before.
If not, these explanations should help you understand what it's all about.



Troll farms

What are “Troll farms”?

- Groups/companies whose members/employees fill the internet with posts confirming disinformation or hoaxes (e.g. discussion forums, Facebook) through fake profiles.
- They are not always real people. They can be computer-controlled “troll bots” using artificial intelligence.

Purposes of troll farms:

- To arouse distrust in the classical media.
- To confuse readers.
- To relativize the truth.
- To influence political opinions and decision-making.
- To create chaos.

Can you think where they are located? Think before you click the Info button.



Troll farms

The existence of troll farms has been proven by Finnish investigative journalist Jessikka Aro, who has specialised in exposing Russian internet trolls spreading fake news among the Finnish population since 2014.

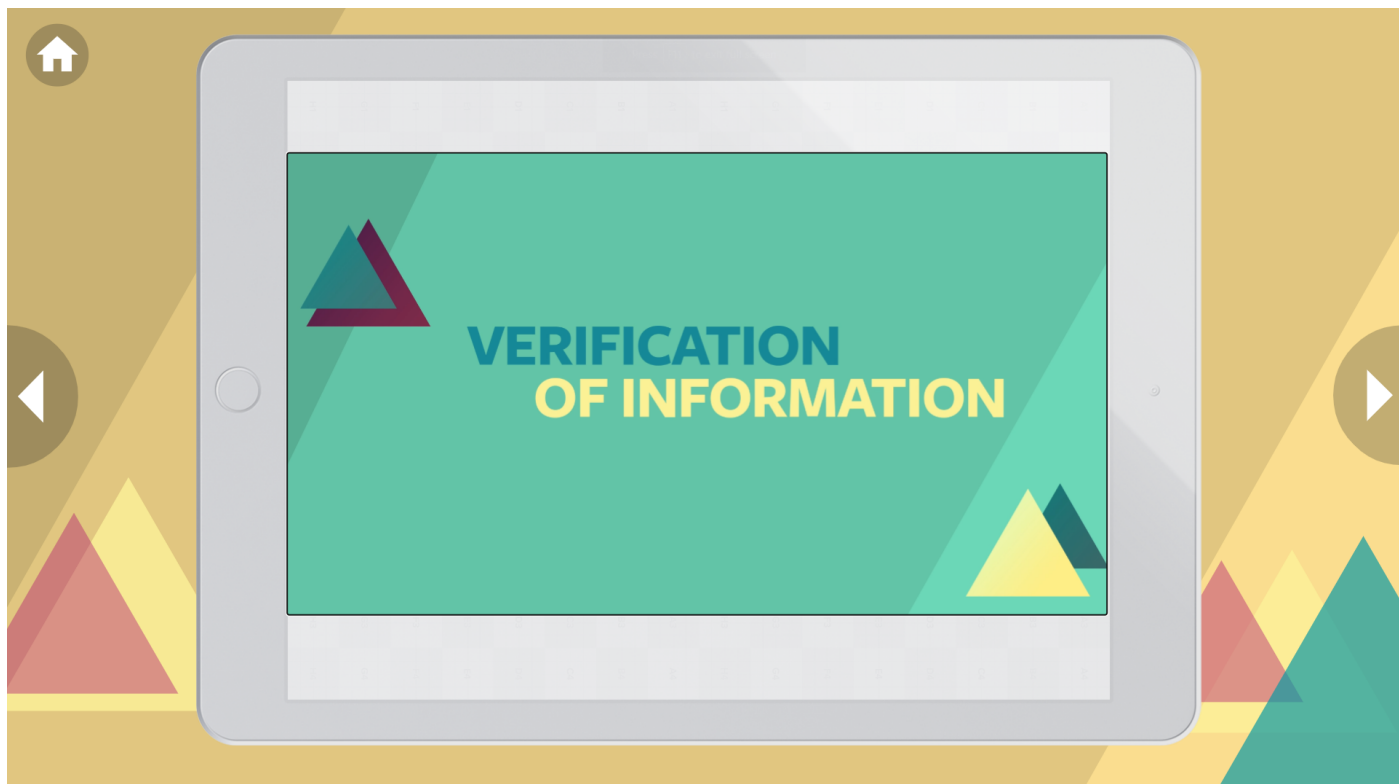
She has mapped their activities in detail and also managed to expose and describe the work of a “troll farm” based in St. Petersburg.

The spreaders of disinformation took severe revenge on the journalist for publishing details of their activities. The persistent cyberstalking included, for example, the publication of her medical records and private photographs from her holidays, modified in a way that was disparaging. In these manipulated presentations, the journalist was portrayed as a NATO agent or a drug dealer.

- To influence political opinions and decision-making.
- To create chaos.

The existence has been proved already several times.
If you see a suspicious amount of social media posts,
remember that they don't have to be made by a human.

Verification of information



Watch the video in this slide to learn why it's important to verify the information you read. Click on the „play“ button and listen carefully.

Conclusion

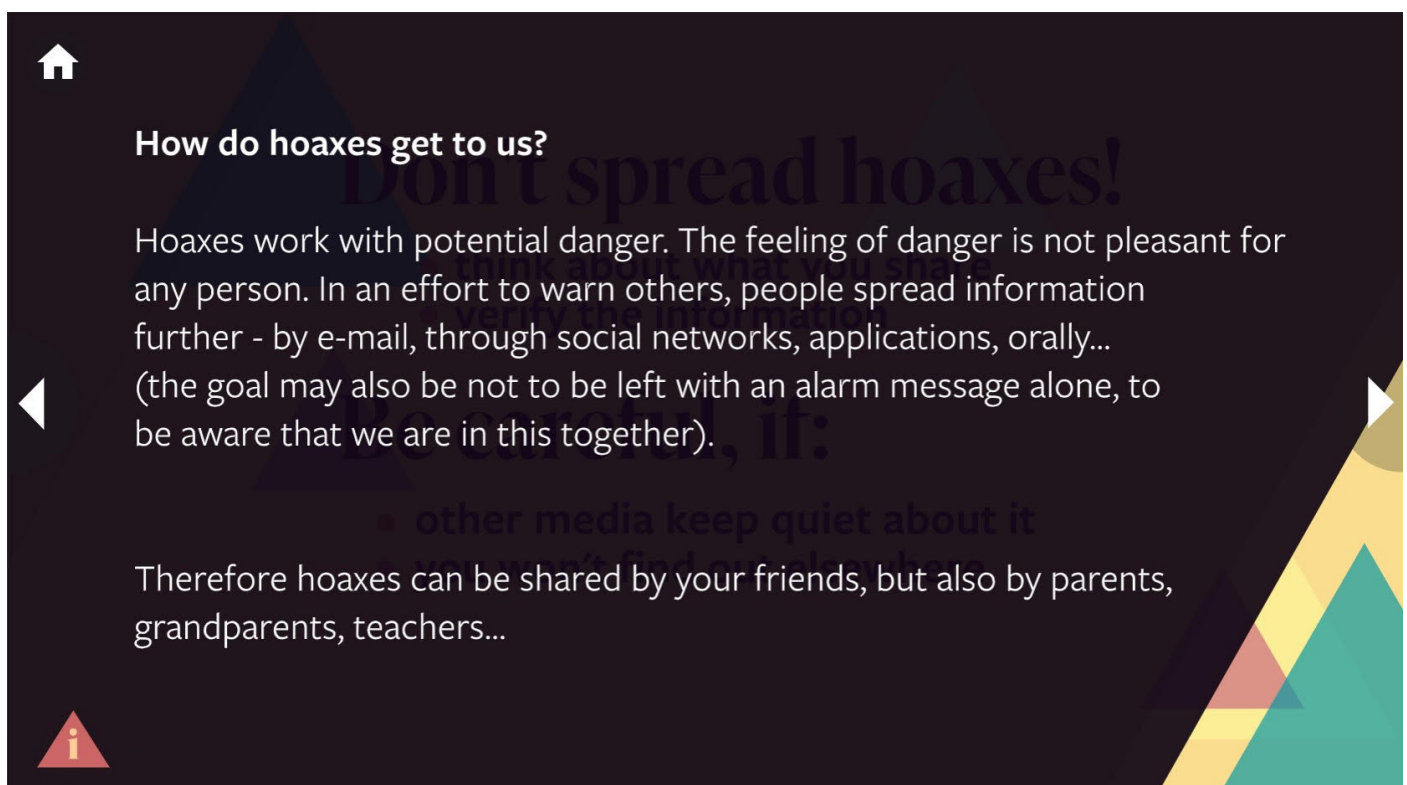
You learned what news and disinformation are and how they are used and also what hoaxes are. Remember a few rules.



How do hoaxes get to us?

Have you ever shared/spread a hoax?

Describe the characteristics of a person who shares/spreads hoaxes.



The End

Remember, hoaxes work with potential danger. The feeling of danger is not pleasant for any person. In an effort to warn others, people spread information further - by e-mail, through social networks, applications, orally... (the goal may also be not to be left with an alarm message alone, to be aware that we are in this together).



Reading list

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Prepoznajte i suzbijte dezinformacije. Web source: https://europa.eu/learning-corner/sites/default/files/files/disinformation-presentation_hr.pdf

Spot and fight disinformation. Web source: <https://europa.eu/learning-corner/spot-and-fight-disinformation>

Pozitivni i negativni medijski sadržaji - nastavni materijali za osnovne škole za učenike od 1. do 4. razreda. Web source: <https://www.medijskapismenost.hr/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/pozitivni-i-negativni-med-sadrzaj.pdf>

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