

Real or Fake? Think Before You Share

From the practice of Elliott McCray, Ed.S., The McCray Learning Lab

What this builds (transformative SEL): Curiosity (“I wonder”) with a thread of Agency (“I can do it”).

Use this as a short SEL and media-literacy activity. Students may pass, write privately, draw, or answer out loud. Malik’s midnight scroll gives every move a story to hang on, and the skill (pause before you believe or share, question the source, tell fact from opinion) transfers to the group chat, a headline, a wild rumor, even an answer from an AI.

15-minute mini-lesson

1. Read the Hero panel so students know Malik’s moment, then let Bloom introduce the three Word Power words: REAL, SOURCE, CHECK.
2. Open **Part 3: Fact or Opinion**. Sort the three lines together; name that popular is not the same as true.
3. Do **Part 5: Run the CHECK** as a group: WHO made it? WHO else says it? WHY the rush?
4. Invite one private answer to Part 7: Share or Check?
5. Close with one voluntary share-out.

Trauma-sensitive facilitation

Don’t require personal sharing. Let students pass. Frame getting fooled as something anyone does, never as being “not smart.” The person who made the fake is never shown or named; the win is the check, not being un-trickable.

This is a practice tool for rehearsing skills, not therapy, counseling, or a clinical service.

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