

Students Learn to Stop Rumors Before They Start

Spreading rumors about someone can be hurtful and damaging to the person they're about. In the following activities, upper elementary students will learn how to identify misleading information, how to check their facts, and ultimately how to block rumors.

Teacher's note: These activities can be incorporated easily into academic subjects and specific curricular activities, including language arts and social studies.

Activity

Checking the Facts

Subject areas

Language arts, social studies

Instructions

Have students investigate how news reporters cross-check details to make sure they don't spread rumors. Discuss how students can use this same technique when working on a report or gathering information from the Internet.

Activity

Rumors in History

Subject areas

Social studies

Instructions

Have students look for examples of rumors about historical events. Events may include the sinking of the Titanic, the disappearance of Amelia Earhart, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy or Dr. Martin Luther King, and the effects of allowing women to vote.