



# EMPOWERING LEARNERS: CREATING AND INTERPRETING MEDIA MESSAGES IN AN ERA OF FAKE NEWS

Kolbe Cathedral High School, Bridgeport

 2020-2021  
  
PROJECT UPDATE



**Grant Amount: \$13,335**  
**Project Cost: \$13,286**



**96 Students Impacted**  
**Grades 9-12**

**PURPOSE:** To utilize an online library circulation system to assist learners in developing critical thinking skills when evaluating digital media - especially when consuming images online. This grant allowed for the discussion of the purpose of misinformation, disinformation and conspiracy theories on social media today and helped the refinement of lessons in the continued blurring of the lines between advertising and editorials, “stealth advertising” and the blurring of the lines between entertainment and informational resources.

**IMPACT:** The grant enabled students and staff for the instruction in digital literacy skills. The grant raised student awareness of the importance of looking at media more critically and carefully considering the possibility that someone might be trying to manipulate them. As content confusion increases, “black ops” advertising is used more and more on social media. Students as well as adults need to be more vigilant about examining the source of the information they are consuming, be sensitive to things they are feeling as they consume media and seek out trusted sources before automatically sharing information.

**FUTURE PLANS:** We attempted to collaborate with teachers to “fit” these lessons into their curriculum but found that students needed additional instruction in media and technology as a module within each content area. Since it is difficult to schedule time and the lessons available online that teach media literacy skills are typically not specific to the content area, we are currently looking at creating a scope and sequence of lessons that cross grade levels and are not specific to any one content area so the skills transfer between domains.



**PHOTOS  
COMING SOON**