



## EDUCATION

News & Happenings

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### Smart Digital Practices for All Ages

- [Common Sense Education](#) – This sibling site to Common Sense Media has educator resources ranging from toolkits to free webinars on topics like digital citizenship, privacy and educational technology, to name a few.
- [Media and Children Communication Toolkit](#) from the American Academy of Pediatrics – This website has an array of resources on media use by children and adolescents, ranging from research summaries to policy positions to a tool for creating a family media plan. (all grades).
- [iCivics](#) – This nonprofit founded by former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor provides rich resources on a range of topics, including news literacy, media and influence. A new game and lesson plan called [NewsFeed Defenders](#) challenges students to spot dubious posts on a fictional social media site. (middle and high school)
- [Resources on Digital Citizenship from ISTE](#) (International Society for Technology in Education) cover a range of practical topics to inform educators and help students.



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### Privacy, Games, Media Literacy & Much More

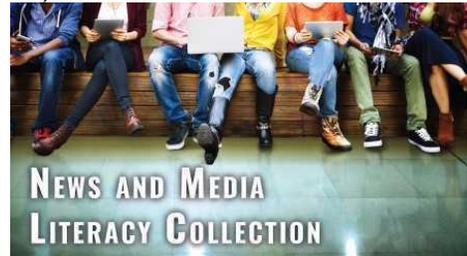
Free & TEKS-aligned from PBS LearningMedia

- [Ruff Ruffman: Humble Media Genius](#) -- This collection of videos and tips helps students explore and understand the many ups and downs of using technology. Topics include privacy, texting, sharing photographs, conducting searches, and finding an appropriate



balance of technology and media use. (grades 2-5)

- [Arthur's Guide to Media Literacy](#) -- These teaching guides and lessons are designed to help kids develop critical thinking skills so they can evaluate media messages and begin understanding how these messages can shape their attitudes and behavior. (grades PK – 4)
- [Why Is Fake News So Effective?](#) -- This interactive lesson teaches strategies for students to improve their media literacy and learn to identify both credible and non-credible news sources. (middle and high school)
- [News and Media Literacy](#) -- These videos, blog articles, student handouts, lesson plans, and tip sheets for families help students identify, analyze, and investigate the news and information they get from online sources. Key topics are fake news, fact-checking and navigating the web. (middle and high school)
- [Is Video Game Addiction Real?](#) -- Is video game addiction REALLY a thing? This video explores research on addiction and challenges students to draw their own conclusions about whether games are really addictive. The discussion questions also work as writing prompts. (middle and high school)
- [MindShift Guide to Digital Games and Learning](#) – This downloadable PDF guide for teachers explains key ideas in game-based learning, pedagogy, implementation, and assessment. Produced by KQED PBS station in San Francisco, the guide makes sense of the available research and provides suggestions for practical use. (for teachers)



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## Leading Discussions on Acts of Hate

Violent acts like Saturday's massacre at Pittsburgh's [Tree of Life Synagogue](#) are hard to process, even for adults. Here are some resources to provide a safe, open environment for discussions with middle or high school students.

- A lesson guide from [Facing History and Ourselves](#) discusses the Pittsburgh shooting in context of other violent acts in recent years against racial, ethnic and religious groups as well as immigrants and gay people. The guide suggests ways to prepare for teaching such sensitive, difficult subjects.
- Another service, [Echoes and Reflections](#), provides webinars, professional development, lesson plans and other multimedia classroom resources to help teachers prepare lessons on the Holocaust as a historical event and lens for studying current events.



## Extracurriculars

### Tool To Help Students Find the Right College

Help students find the right college for their needs – in Texas or across the country – with the [interactive Tuition Tracker tool](#), which filters by key criteria, such as desired location, price and size. Created by the Dallas Morning News, Education Writers Association and the Hechinger Report education news site.



### PD for Early Childhood Providers

KERA and Region 10 are offering an innovative approach called Ed Camp. It is organized by educators and driven by participants for a day of collaborating ideas, brainstorming solutions to common problems and taking home information you can put to use immediately. **Saturday, November 3.** [Click for details and registration.](#)

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