

## Teaching Media Literacy and Critical Thinking in the Language Classroom

The increased prevalence and anti-democratic nature of disinformation in general makes the teaching of media-literacy and critical thinking skills an urgent and essential need. English language learners are at increased risk of consuming disinformation and sharing false or misleading information without understanding the meaning or social impact of the message. This presentation explores the possibilities of innovative media literacy teaching practices aimed at in-depth analysis of contemporary examples of disinformation, conspiracy theories, propaganda, and fake news. The presenter will discuss current approaches to teaching media literacy/critical thinking and then showcase classroom materials which combine aspects of media literacy, critical thinking practices, linguistic approaches to analyzing disinformation, and psychological approaches to examining bias and motive. The goal is to provide direction for the development of resources and activities for language teachers to approach combining media literacy, critical-thinking skills, and language instruction.