

# Rebooting The News



Thanks to [School Library Journal](#) for recommending this site  
NEW: [Future of News](#) series from Newseum

I was pleased to be among those participating in "Rebooting The News," a three day event at Temple University in Philadelphia. (read School Library Journal's [review](#)) Attendees came from journalism, news, education and activism, just to name a few. Among the highlights (to me) was hearing details of the newly developed News Literacy college course at Stony Brook University, New York. The developer of that course, [Howard Schneider](#), spoke at the event on Friday morning, and according to what I saw/heard, what his students are going through is rigorous. This is not about journalism education, but rather education for all. Working groups had lengthy discussions about what this might look like in American schools and why all of this is critical. Details are available at the event's [wiki](#).

## the news literacy project

Another related initiative, dubbed the News Literacy Project, aimed at middle and high school students, is the brainchild of former Los Angeles Times reporter Alan Miller, and has just gotten started; details [here](#). TMLP has posted its promotional video on YouTube and you can watch it [here](#). As part of the continuing project to spread the word about "news literacy" and its importance in K-12 education, I have volunteered to assist the RTM project's co-directors: Renee Hobbs (Temple University) and Bill Denmore (University of Massachusetts), correlate the program's goals and objectives to current K-12 teaching standards. In addition, I will use this space to provide links to news stories, previous research and surveys regarding young people, civic engagement and news.

**NOTE:** Read the [Connected Classroom Wiki](#), blog post about this project, or [Edublogger's post](#)  
**NOTE:** In March 2009, Stony Brook hosted a three day news literacy conference and has created [this website](#). In 2011, it held a follow-up conference; read more about it [here](#).

What is news literacy?  
A definition offered by Howard Schneider (Dean of Journalism, Stony Brook University):  
"the ability to use critical thinking skills to judge the reliability and credibility of news reports, whether they come via print, TV, on the Internet" (we don't use the word truth) "reliable information is actionable information--it allows news consumers to make a judgment, reach a conclusion, or take an action"  
Rebooting The News conference participants' definition:  
"News surrounds us and as such news literacy is an essential life skill for everyone. To paraphrase Thomas Jefferson: Knowledge of current issues is essential to informed citizenship in a democracy. We are concerned about the effects of media messages on children and others. Modern participatory culture makes every citizen a potential creator of news in social media, blogs, email and the web. We believe a literate citizen understands the purposes, processes and economics of news. Therefore, it is time for American education to include the acquisition of 21st-century, critical-thinking skills for analyzing and judging the reliability of news, differentiating among facts, opinions and assertions in the media we create and distribute. News Literacy standards can be research based in multiple content areas. It can be taught most effectively in cross-curricular, inquiry-based format at all grade levels. It is a necessary component for literacy in contemporary society."  
Not such really. If you take the time to read [ML&L's](#) media literacy [principles and critical thinking questions](#), you might agree that news literacy does not have to be invented; much of the work exists already.

K-12 Teaching Standards  
When we think about the news and how young people are exposed to and think about news, a number of topics arise, all of which can be used as teachable moments for educators. News comes in all forms (TV, newspapers, magazines, Internet, cable TV and more). How do students use "critical thinking skills" (if at all) when they are exposed to news/information? Why do they seemingly believe everything they see, read and hear? What are the pressures on news organizations today; how is news made and who makes it; what is the function of a gatekeeper of news; how is news received and understood? Why do Comedy Central and cell phones get more attention than traditional news sources? Who sets the news agenda; and who owns the media and why does it matter?  
All of these topics are perfect opportunities for educators to meet state standards requirements- for example:  
- critical thinking; critical viewing  
- media codes & conventions;  
- distinguishing fact vs. fiction;  
- understanding techniques of persuasion:  
- word choice;  
- point-of-view (perspective); author bias;  
- understanding techniques of persuasion:  
- information/media/visual literacy;  
- economics and more.



Media Literacy Clearinghouse's [18 State Standards for Media Literacy](#)  
See the [many references to news](#) in the NCSS Curriculum Standards for Social Studies Update Draft (2008)

Identify and analyze different ways that electronic news sources define and present an issue and raise significant questions about how the different points of view in the news source might affect how people define and act upon the issue

Read what the National Council of Teachers of English/International Reading Assn. say about [media and media techniques](#)

Recent news:  
[What does it mean to be news literate and who gets to decide?](#)  
[News Literacy Is Not Optional If You Need to Be Well-Informed](#)  
[Teaching Students to Assess the Credibility of Digital News](#)  
[Half of Civics Teachers Devote Little Time to News Literacy, Study Finds](#) (January 2014)  
[New Young People's Appeal for News Not Growing](#) (October 2013)  
[News Literacy: The Media, Civilians, and Literacy](#) (August 2013)  
[News Literacy Project Helps Students Sort Media Fact from Fiction](#) (July 2013)  
[News Literacy Lessons Teach Students How to Sort Fact from Fiction](#) (April 2013)  
[News Literacy aims to teach teens to sort fact from fiction](#)  
[How to be a critical news consumer](#), Skeptic (Summer 2012)  
[How to get smart: News literacy programs train readers to look beyond infotainment](#) (July 2012)  
[News Literacy: Lessons to Be Learned](#)  
[Cops Fall for News Literacy Push](#)  
[ML&L News Literacy Conference Website](#)  
[Case Studies and News Literacy Curriculum Expanded](#)  
[Understanding News Literacy: A Youth Media Perspective](#)  
[Furry Logic: Why Students Need News and Information Literacy Skills](#)  
[Can a Democracy Survive without Reliable Information?](#)  
[News Literacy: A How-To for Youth Media](#)  
[News Literacy: How to teach students to search smart](#)  
[What Better Journalism Model News Literacy](#)  
[A Program Teacher Tests What to Release in the Digital World](#)  
[The News Literacy Project: Bringing Accountability into the Classroom](#)  
[McCrack Foundation Grants \\$5 Million to Promote News Literacy](#)  
[McCrack Foundation Invests More Than \\$5 Million to Promote News Literacy](#)  
[News Literacy Project Unveils New Video](#)  
[Former Idaho Editor Miller Joins Stony Brook U.](#)  
[Study reveals: Don't take rumors from news](#)  
[The News: What's True?](#)

[Standards of news literacy: "What" at stake here isn't the newspaper, it's the nation" \(gallus\)](#)  
Leap of Faith: Inside the movement to build an audience of citizens (Ch. July/Aug 09)  
[Crab Detection 101](#)  
Media Literacy: What's Next?  
[It's important to teach kids how to navigate the information highway](#)  
[News: The Can Use: Media Literacy Initiative aims to connect students/journalists](#)  
[News literacy critical to democracy](#)  
[Journalism Grants Push For News Literacy](#)  
[News Literacy in the Digital Age](#)  
[Preparing for the New Media Literacies](#) (Multimedia Internet @ Schools)  
[Frontier Receives \\$75,000 Grant for Social Media Project](#)  
[Proposal unveiled to hire 50 laid-off journalists to teach "news literacy"](#)  
[L&L creates first "News Literacy" school course](#)

March 11-13 Stony Brook Hosts News Literacy, Setting a National Agenda: [Highlights](#); [photos](#)  
[TV news outlets seeking non-synthetic news sites](#)  
[NYU gives lessons to students: Tell them to watch stories](#)  
[What Young People Don't Like About the Web-Aud News Site](#)  
[Anchor Stony Brook hits Summer News Literacy 10 Teacher Institute](#)  
[New Program Teaches Students to Evaluate News](#)  
[The News Literacy Project Kicks Off in NYC](#) (Feb 2009)  
[Enhancing News Literacy](#) (School Library Journal, Jan. 2009)  
[Internet Surveys Reveal News Literacy](#) (Pew Study, Dec. 2008)  
[What's Next, News?](#)

[Online News: More trusted than television, blogs](#)  
[A. Schwartz for news \(NYG post\)](#)  
[Overlook: Top news information? \(Nov/Dec 09 Columbia Journalism Review\)](#)  
[NYU/TVOYR Alert: The ITC Media course](#), (Prattwire Nov. 10)  
[The Future of Journalism](#) (National Press Club Forum)  
[What's So Tough for Their News?](#) (November 2008)  
[Are Media Students Informed and Critical about Free Press?](#) (November 2008)  
[New State U Study Finds New Media Not Replacing Traditional Media](#): Newspapers, Magazines, Radio, TV See Slight Increase in Use  
[New, Blogs](#) (Twenty Four)  
[The rumor mill that won't stop running](#) (October 2008)  
[NewsTrust sees News America Separate Fact from Fiction](#) (October 2008)  
[Encouraging Kids to Dig Deeper in the Digital Age](#) (October 2008)  
[The Responsibility of Citizenship: A Bundle of Literacies](#) (October 2008)  
[Link TV: News literacy tools available/Link TV lets students edit TV News online](#)  
[Nonprofits, TV, A Media Literacy Teaching Tool](#)  
[Tribune Presses High School Journalism in Transition](#)  
[Journalism and the Whole "Citizenship" Thing](#) (Sept. 2008)  
[The News Literacy Project Launches Website and Plans Fall](#) (Sept. 2008)  
[Key News Audiences Now Blend Online and Traditional Sources](#) (Pew Study) (August 2008)  
[Signal News Literacy](#), (Open Video, May 2008)  
[Newspapers Have Lost Their Future to Internet Media](#) (March 2008)  
[Supply and Demand: Journalism Must Adapt to Shattered Economics](#) (Jan/Feb 2008)  
[State of the News Media - 2008](#)

[Stony Brook University Announces Nation's First Center for News Literacy](#) (Sept. 2007)  
[Teaching Journalism in the Digital Age](#): [Susan Swartz](#), (Fall 2007)  
[Young People and News](#) (July 2007)  
[From True A Class in Reading News](#) (May 2007)  
[Mandatory Testing and News in the Schools](#) (January 2007)  
[Kids get news from weird places, but](#), (August 2006)  
[Survey: Slowing growth of online news users](#) (July 2006)  
[What's Next? Educational Leadership](#), 2005)  
[NCTE Resolution on Teaching of Journalism](#), In English (2004)  
[Reading Between the Lines](#) (American Journalism Review, March 2003)  
[Media Use Among Young People](#) (2003)  
[News Literacy Classes Graduate Media Savvy Students](#) (2000)  
[Teaching resources:](#)  
[NEW: 2014 NIE Week Curriculum/Lesson Plans \(APJ/Newsweek\)](#)  
[Check Out The News \(LWP\)](#)  
[Straight From The Source \(Factcheck\)](#)  
[NMA Foundation: \[HIGH FIVE curriculum\]\(#\)](#)  
[NewsTrust's News Literacy guide](#)  
[Links to middle-high school news lesson plans](#)  
[Lesson Plan: Your Future: Spot The Signs Of Lies](#)  
[Lesson Plans: \[Global Media Literacy: A New Curriculum\]\(#\) \(registration required\)](#)  
[Curriculum/Lesson plans: \[News Literacy\]\(#\) \(media literacy & news curriculum\)](#)  
[Newsweek: \[Lesson Plans / Learning Center/Get Your News ID\]\(#\)](#)  
[Research: \[Lifelong Readers: Building Civic Engagement\]\(#\)](#)  
[What is News?](#) (YouTube)  
[Teens Skip The News](#) (SPT)  
[Occasional Visual News Content](#)  
[News Web \(PBS 4 part series\) \[teacher guide\]\(#\)](#)  
[Measurement in the Classroom](#) (NCTE recommended resources)  
[Using Newspapers in the Classroom](#) (NSD Today)  
[Using the Newspaper in Your Classroom](#) (NSD Today) (Updated research)  
[Journalism Skills: \[Skill Do Better\]\(#\)](#) (Updated research)  
[A Teacher's Guide to Using Newspapers to Enhance Students' Skills](#)  
[Is Science Being Taught? \(Visual Literacy: Media Literacy Clearinghouse\)](#)  
[News/Journalism Education Resources](#) (Media Literacy Clearinghouse)  
[Social Studies/Media Literacy Resources](#) (Media Literacy Clearinghouse)  
[Risk Media/Media Literacy \(Media Literacy Clearinghouse\)](#)  
[Teaching the News/Current Events](#) (Education World)  
[How to Use Newspapers to Promote Standards](#)  
[How have educators the act of reading the news](#)

Recommended Texts:  
[The Future of the First Amendment: The Digital Media, Civic Education, and Free Expression Rights in America's High Schools](#)  
[Young Citizens in a Digital Age: Political Engagement, Young People and New Media](#)  
[Activism With/Without Borders: In Classroom Journalism Projects Activities & Scenarios](#)  
[How to Watch TV News](#) (revised edition)  
[Using Newspapers in the Classroom](#)  
[Tuned Out: Why Americans Under 18 Don't Follow The News](#)  
[A History of News](#)  
[The Sociology of News/ The Power of News](#)