

Episode 7: Media Literacy 101: Media Literacy and Civic Engagement

Opening music

HOST: Welcome back to "Media Literacy 101," the radio series that aims to educate and empower listeners to navigate the media landscape in a critical and informed way.

HOST: In today's episode, we will focus on media literacy and civic engagement.

Soundbite 1: The Role of Media in Democracy and Civic Engagement

HOST: Media plays an important role in democracy and civic engagement. It serves as a watchdog for government and other institutions, and provides citizens with the information they need to make informed decisions. However, it is important for media consumers to be critical and discerning in their consumption of news and information.that we've discussed over the past number of episodes could lead you to doubt every piece of information you encounter online but rather than disengaging, our intention is to create awareness and knowledge in order for you to actively engage in a safe, informed and confident manner.

Soundbite 2: Tips for Staying Informed and Engaged as a Citizen

HOST: In order to stay informed and engaged as a citizen, it's important to have a variety of news sources and to consume news from different perspectives. Here are some tips:

- Follow reputable news outlets and fact-checking organisations.
- Seek out diverse perspectives and voices in your news consumption
- Stay informed on local and state politics, as well as national and international news
- Get involved in local community organisations and events
- Learn more about digital media by availing of free courses that are available.

There are many reputable courses and websites that offer information and guidance on misinformation, disinformation and malinformation (MDM)

For example, Media Literacy Ireland's website has a wide range of free resources and online courses to suit all ages.

Poynter.org, an American institute of journalism, provides training and resources through MediaWise. Their aim is to empower "people of all ages to become more critical consumers of content online."

Check our website to access more helpful resources and links.

Soundbite 3: Ways to Participate in the Media and Express Your Own Views

HOST: There are many ways to participate in the media and express your own views. Here are some ways:

- Write letters to the editor of your local newspaper
- Call into radio talk shows to express your opinions
- Create your own content online through blogging, podcasting, and social media
- Get involved in local media production, such as community television and radio stations
- Be an active citizen in your community by voting, attending town hall meetings and being engaged in civic activities.

Soundbite 4: Guest Speaker

I'm now going to introduce you to a member of Age Action (equivalent) who is going to tell us about the organisation

HOST: Our next episode will be our final episode of the series and will focus on a conclusion and next steps. We will summarize key points from the training course, encourage continued learning, and share resources for further learning.

7. **HOST:** Be sure to tune in next week for the conclusion of "Media Literacy 101." In the meantime, don't forget to check out our website for more information and resources on media literacy.

8. Closing music

9. **HOST:** Thank you for tuning in to "Media Literacy 101." Until next time, stay informed, stay curious, and stay media literate.

Outro music