



ENHANCING DIGITAL READINESS BY OVERCOMING FAKE NEWS, INFORMATION IN SOCIAL MEDIA

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UnfakeSoMe Games

LATERAL READING

Memearazzi – Investigative Meme Challenge

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Name of the Game	Memearazzi – Investigative Meme Challenge
About the Game	This game challenges players to practice lateral reading by evaluating a news story's source, author, date, and context before creating a meme that captures its essence. Players must determine whether the story is true or misleading and use humour, irony, or exaggeration to illustrate their conclusion. This game enhances critical thinking, source evaluation, and analytical skills while fostering creativity and engagement.
Number of Players	2-6 players. Works well in small groups, encouraging discussion and creativity.
Recommended Age	14+ years. Suitable for teenagers and adults, as it involves fact-checking and meme creation.
Game Duration	25-35 minutes. Each round lasts about 5-7 minutes, depending on discussion and meme development. Players can play multiple rounds based on available time.
Objective	Players must analyse a news story snippet, determine its validity using lateral reading techniques, and create a humorous meme that reflects their findings. True stories should be humorously realistic, while false stories should be exaggerated or ironic to highlight misinformation. The player with the highest score at the end wins.
Game Setup	
1. Facilitator Prepares News Stories	The facilitator selects pre-approved news snippets that can be real or misleading. Stories should cover diverse categories such as science, politics, technology, or bizarre news.
2. Gather Materials	Each player should have paper and pencils to create hand-drawn memes. A board or table space is needed for players to display their memes for voting.
3. Distribute Meme Templates	Provide blank sheets with a designated space for a drawing and a section for the meme caption. Players can sketch their memes and write captions based on their conclusions.
Game Flow	
1. Receive a News Story	The facilitator presents a pre-selected news snippet (real or fake) to all players. Each player receives the same snippet.
2. Meme Creation Phase	Players create a meme based on their interpretation of the story. The meme can highlight absurdity, irony, or humour while maintaining relevance to the story.
3. Presentation Phase	Each player showcases their hand-drawn meme and explains how it reflects the news story. The explanation should include their reasoning behind the humour and whether they believe the story to be true or false.
4. Voting Phase	Players vote on which meme is the funniest and most creative. Each player gets one vote, but they cannot vote for their own meme.
5. Verification & Scoring	The facilitator reveals whether the news snippet was true or false and awards points based on research accuracy, creativity, and votes.

Instruction Guide

Step	Instructions
1. Setup	"Hello everyone, welcome to Memerazzi! Please gather your materials: paper, pencils, and your meme templates. Each of you will receive a news snippet that you'll need to evaluate using lateral reading techniques before creating a humorous meme."
2. Starting the Game	"Your task today is to analyse the news snippet, decide if it's true or misleading, and then create a meme that captures the essence of the story. Remember: your meme should be both funny and insightful. Get ready to showcase your creativity and critical thinking!"
3. Gameplay Flow	"Take a few minutes to research the news snippet using the provided fact-checking tips. Once you're confident in your findings, start creating your meme on the template. Make sure to include both a drawing and a caption that reflect your analysis."
4. Presentation & Voting	"When you're finished, share your meme with the group and explain your reasoning behind your creative choices. After all presentations, everyone will vote on the funniest and most accurate meme. I will then reveal the true nature of the news snippet and award points accordingly."
5. Post-Game Reflection	"Great job, everyone! Let's reflect: What made some memes more effective in conveying the news story? Which fact-checking strategies did you find most useful? How can you apply these insights to spot misinformation in the real world?"

Step	Outlined Instructions
1. Setup	• Gather all necessary materials: paper, pencils, printed news snippets, and blank meme templates. • Explain that each player/team will analyse a news snippet and create a meme.
2. Starting the Game	• Explain the objective: evaluate a news snippet using lateral reading, then create a humorous meme reflecting the truth or falsehood of the news. • Clarify that memes must include both a visual element and a caption.
3. Gameplay Flow	• Allow time for research and discussion using the fact-checking guide. • Once research is complete, have players create their memes using the template provided. • Ensure that each player/team sticks to the creative brief.
4. Presentation & Voting	• Ask each team/player to present their meme along with an explanation of their reasoning. • Facilitate a group vote to determine which meme is the funniest and most accurate. • Reveal the correct evaluation of the news snippet and award points based on a predefined scoring system.

5. Post-Game Reflection	• Lead a reflection session discussing the strengths and weaknesses of the memes created. • Encourage players to share which research strategies were most effective and how they might apply these skills outside the game.
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Meme Creation Guide/Rules:

1. **Read the News Snippet Carefully** – Understand the story before creating your meme.
2. **Decide if the Story is True or False** – Use **lateral reading techniques** to fact-check the story.
3. **Identify the Main Theme or Absurdity** – Determine what makes the story interesting or misleading.
4. **Choose an Appropriate Meme Format** – Reaction meme, comparison meme, text-based meme, etc.
5. **Keep It Short and Impactful** – Make it easy to understand at a glance.
6. **Ensure the Meme Reflects Your Conclusion** – True stories should support reality, while false stories should humorously highlight flaws.
7. **Avoid Offensive or Inappropriate Content** – Keep memes suitable for all players.
8. **Final Check: Does It Make Sense?** – Ensure it aligns with the story, is humorous, and conveys the right message.

Example Meme Concepts:

Meme Type	Example
Reaction Meme	A famous shocked face reacting to an outrageous news snippet.
Comparison Meme	Side-by-side images comparing reality vs. exaggeration in a misleading story.
Text-Based Meme	A caption that humorously summarizes the absurdity of a fake news story.

Scoring System

Category	Criteria	Points
Research Accuracy	Correctly identified if the story was true or fake .	+3 points
Meme Creativity & Humour	Meme effectively conveys the story in a funny or insightful way .	+3 points
Voting Bonus	Meme won the funniest meme vote .	+2 points
Bonus Points	Meme cleverly incorporates fact-checking elements or irony .	+1 point

Total Maximum Points Per Round: 9

Scoring Sheet

Round	Player Name	Research Accuracy (3 pts)	Meme Creativity (3 pts)	Voting Bonus (2 pts)	Bonus (1 pt)	Total Score
1						
2						
3						

Game-End Reflection Round (Post-Game Discussion)

Question	Guiding Prompts
What was the most surprising false story?	Why did it seem believable? What research step revealed the truth?
Which fact-checking technique was the most useful?	Did lateral reading help? Was checking the source's credibility important?
Did any story feel "half-true" or misleading?	Was there some truth but missing context? How do misleading and false news differ?
How did you decide on your meme style for true vs. false stories?	What elements helped make true stories feel "real"? How did false stories appear distorted?
How can you apply these fact-checking skills in real life?	Would you use these techniques when reading news online? How can you help others avoid misinformation?