



Activity 2: Acting on misinformation



**NEWS
FLASH!**

Objective:

To explore the
consequences of acting on
misinformation.



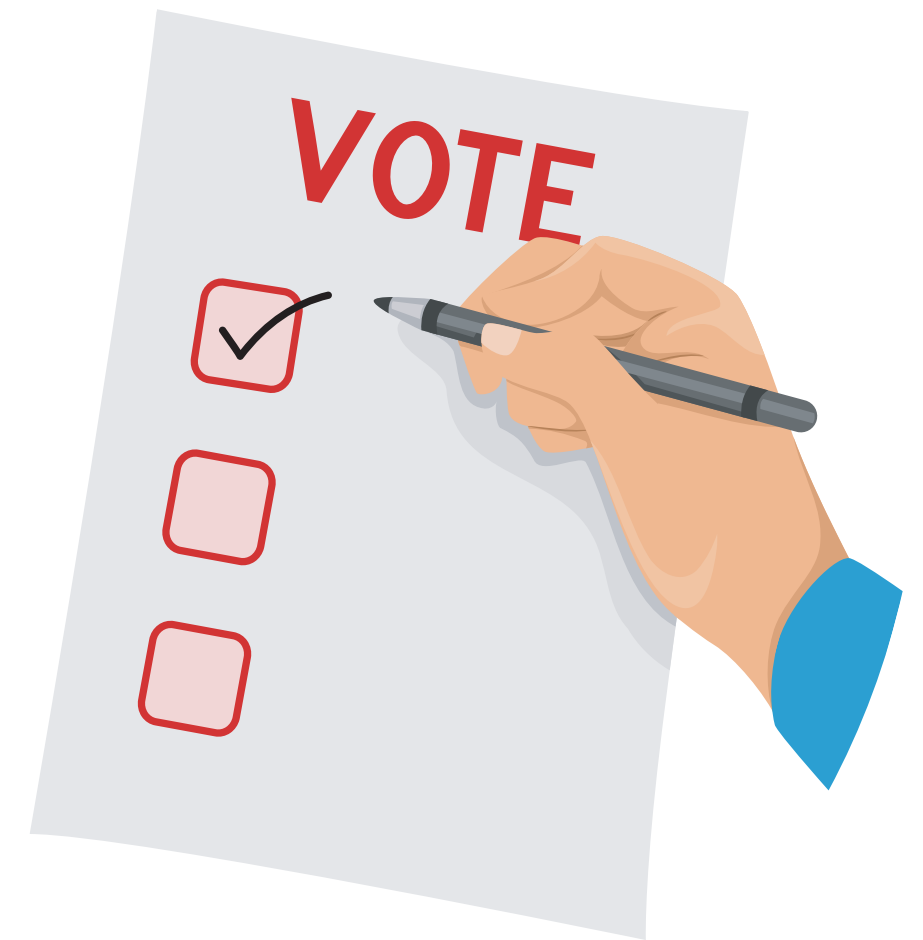
Omar

Olive



Newsi:

Hi! My name is Newsi and these are my friends Omar and Olive. We are members of our school's News Club and we are covering the story of the new School Council elections.





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Omar:

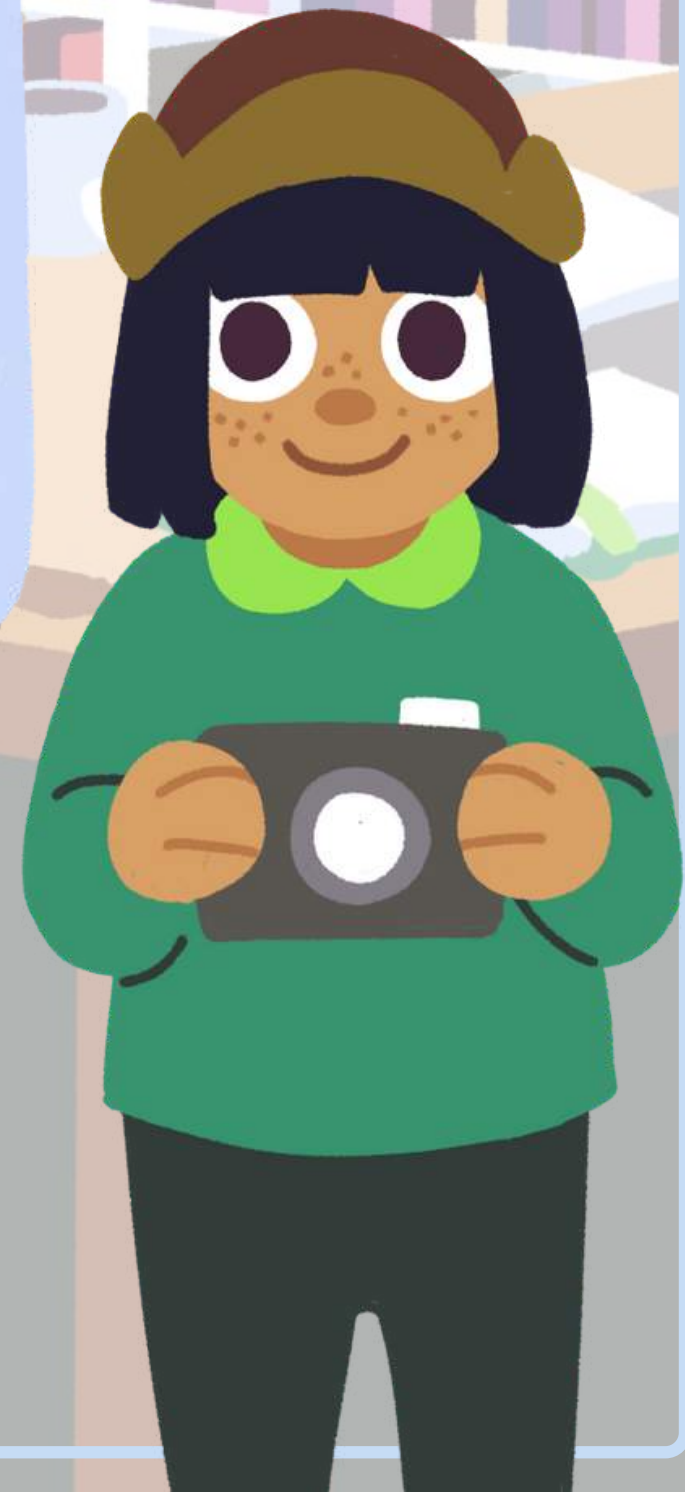
We are reporting on the candidates for the School Council election and have got to decide which candidate WE think should be the next Head of the School Council.





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Today, we are going to listen to what they would do if they win the election and become the new Head of the School Council.



As we meet the candidates, we are going to be thinking about:

- What are they saying?
- Why are they saying it?
- What could the consequences be if they win the election and become the Head of the School Council?



Let's meet the Candidates

Ethan



Sara



Charlie



Zoe



Role Play:

- Get into groups of four and each take on the role of one of the candidates.
- Read the 'Character Cards' from the Resource Pack to help you to get into character.

Ethan



Sara



Charlie



Zoe



Role Play:

- Put yourself in the place of your character and tell your teammates why YOU should be the new Head of the School Council.

Ethan



Sara



Charlie



Zoe



As you are listening to each candidate, you need to consider:

What are they saying?
Why are they saying it?
What could the consequences be if they win the election and become the Head of the School Council?

Charlie



Zoe



Ethan



Sara



Who did you think should win?

What did they each want to
change about the school?

What had they read or seen that
had made them think this way?

Charlie



Zoe



Ethan



Sara



What would the consequences be if they won the election?

- What do you think would happen if all vegetables were removed from the school lunches?
- What do you think would happen if the school started paying teachers less money?
- What do you think would happen if the school stopped teaching Mathematics?
- What would the consequences be of buying more books and employing a full-time librarian?

Charlie



Zoe



Ethan



Sara





Newsi:

Let's find out what would happen if each person won the election.



Omar:

I hope that Charlie wins. I hate vegetables!

Ethan

If Ethan had won the election:

- Maths lessons would be stopped for all pupils above year 3.
- Students would have more free time at school.
- Students would leave the school without learning what they need to know for High School.
- Pupil would lack key problem-solving abilities needed for life.
- All of the extra free time means that children would become bored, argue with their friends more and don't want to go to school.

Zoe

If Zoe had won the election:

- Teachers would suffer a 10% pay cut.
- Teachers would have to take on a second job to help them to pay the bills.
- Teachers would no longer have time to plan exciting, interesting lessons and students would spend every lesson filling in worksheets.
- The school would have spent thousands of pounds on VR headsets which would quickly become out of date and would need to be upgraded every year.



Charlie

If Charlie had won the election:

- All vegetables would be removed from School lunches.
- Vegetables would be replaced with bread and a second dessert option.
- Students would begin to feel tired and sluggish in afternoon lessons.
- Students would become ill with coughs and colds and they would take longer to fully recover.
- Teachers would report that students were hungry soon after eating their lunch and that they could not concentrate.





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Sara won!

When Sara won the election:

- A full-time librarian was employed to work at the school.
- Thousands of pounds were spent on brand new books for the Library.
- Students spent (on average) an extra two hours a week reading and discussing books in the Library.
- Librarian got to know what the students liked to read and they have been supported to choose books that they will really love.
- Students' writing and speaking improved.
- Students achieved higher exam results.



**School
Council**



Newsi:

Phew! If Ethan, Zoe or Charlie had won the election, the school would have really suffered!



Olive:

You're right Newsi. Ethan, Zoe and Charlie had read or listened to misinformation.

NEWS FLASH!



Ethan had watched a video on YouTube which was not fact-checked. It had not named its sources and it had presented opinions as facts.



Zoe had read a news article from an unreliable website which had not backed up its claims with facts. She had read about the benefits of VR headsets on a website which made exaggerated claims so that people would buy their products.



Charlie had read a Facebook post which presented opinions as facts. Charlie had not fact-checked the information in the article. Charlie had confirmation bias and found it easy to believe the article because he agreed with it.

Omar:

Wow! Listening to, reading and believing **misinformation** meant that Ethan, Zoe and Charlie were not able to make well-informed decisions about how the school should be run.



That's right!

To make sure that you are aware of misinformation, remember to:

- Choose what you read, watch or listen to very carefully.
- **FACT-CHECK** the things that you hear before you act on them.
- Consider the consequences of sharing information that could not be true.



Have you played the



game yet?

Go to www.newsflashgame.org to solve the mystery and uncover the truth!

