Can You Trust It? Planet Wordshop
Policies, Procedures, and Additional Information

Program Description and Timeline

In this approximately one-hour-long interactive workshop, a Planet Word educator will guide students in exploring facts and opinions, types of sources, and motive in both news and social media. At the end of the program, students will participate in a fact-checking exercise to practice using four key questions to determine what information they can trust. This program was developed in partnership with the News Literacy Project.

Planet Word programs are adaptable and highly participatory and may change depending on student engagement:

- 7 minute welcome, introduction to Planet Word, introduction to content.
- 35 minute educator-led exploration of four key questions
- 25 minute opportunity for students to fact-check and analyze an article
- 3 minute quick Q&A and conclusion

Standards Alignment

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.8: Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence. (6-12 Anchor Standard)

Cost and Payment

Virtual Planet Wordshops cost $125 USD per program. On-site Planet Wordshops cost $200 USD per program. This fee is waived for Title I schools and non-profit organizations serving disadvantaged populations in D.C., Maryland (Anne Arundel, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George’s counties), and Virginia (Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Falls Church, and Prince William counties), or a similar geographic range.

- The fees help ensure Planet Word can provide a qualified educator for the duration of the program, professional registration support, optional pre-visit support calls, and either well-maintained spaces or virtual platforms for all programs.
- Reservation confirmations will be emailed and will include an invoice with payment details.
- Full payment must be received 3 days in advance of the Wordshop reservation date to avoid cancellation. Planet Word accepts payment via check or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express). Credit Card Payments can be made via phone only 202-931-3150, Monday-Friday, 9 AM – 5 PM. Please make all checks payable to: Planet Word or The Museum of Language Arts, Inc.

Cancellation

- Please give us 2 weeks’ notice if you need to change your reservation, and we will be happy to work with you to reschedule. Your consideration helps us serve as many
groups as possible. Programs cancelled with less than 1 weeks’ notice will not be eligible for a refund.

- If Planet Word needs to cancel your program for any reason, Planet Word will work with you to reschedule at another time. If we are not able to agree on a date to reschedule, and you have paid for your program, your program fee will be refunded.

Participants

Grades 9-12. 5-35 students. At least one school employee/supervising adult MUST participate.

Behavior Expectations

- Planet Word believes that everyone involved in our programming should be treated with respect- educators, parents, and students. Participants are responsible for behaving in a way that does not intimidate, endanger, or disrupt the participation of others. Any form or written or verbal abuse will not be tolerated.
- If the above behavior expectations are not followed, Planet Word educators may provide a verbal redirection. If the behavior continues, Planet Word educators may remove the participant from the program or end the program.

Expectations for Adult Educators and Chaperones

- At least one school employee/supervising adult MUST participate to ensure the safety and security of all involved.
- The adult is responsible for making sure participants adhere to the behavior expectations above.

For Virtual Wordshops:

- If the supervising adult is unable to participate or loses internet connection during the call, the Planet Word educator will end the program.
- The supervising adult will serve as a co-host to the meeting and will be responsible for admitting students to the virtual room.
- The Words Matter Planet Wordshop requires group work. The supervising adult will be responsible for dividing students into groups during the program.

For On-site Wordshops:

- The supervising adult must be actively involved in redirecting students and actively engaging them in the learning experience for the entire program. If the supervising adult leaves the room, the Planet Word educator will end the program.

Virtual Tech and Security Requirements

- Planet Word will do our best to meet your group’s security needs. If you prefer for us to send you a unique virtual meeting link on Zoom, or for us to join you in your digital classroom, we’re happy to be flexible. Let us know what you need.
- The Planet Word educator must have the ability to share their screen.