

Fact Checkers: Using TikTok to Improve Critical Thinking

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PowerPoint Template
from Slidesgo

The Importance of Critical Thinking

AI Tools in Society: Impacts on Cognitive
Offloading and

28 Pages • Posted: 14 Jan

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The effects of over-reliance on AI dialogue systems on students' cognitive abilities: a systematic review

Research | [Open access](#) | Published: 18 June 2024

Volume 11, article number 28 (2024) [Cite this article](#)

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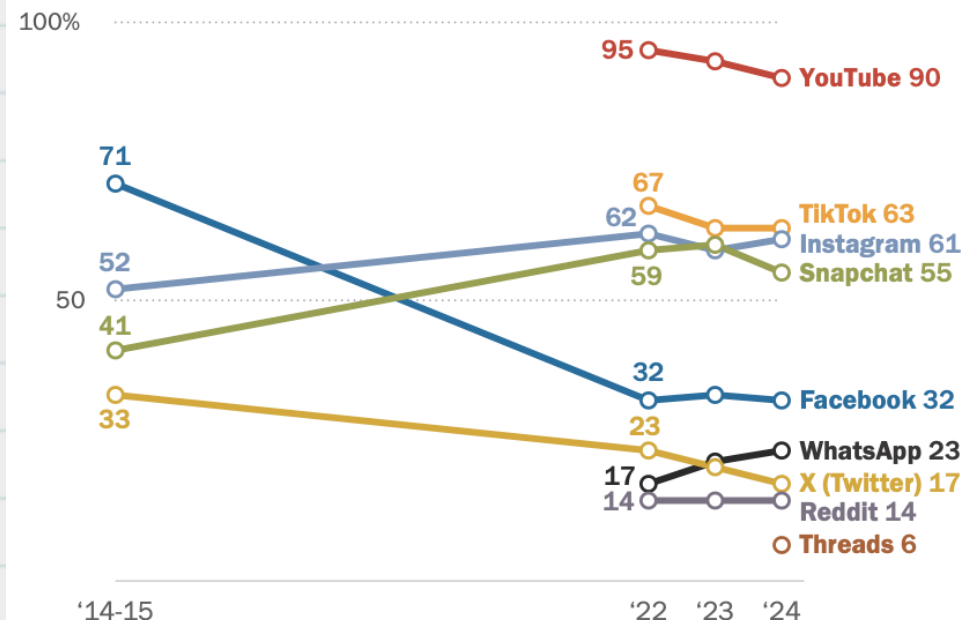
First published: 06 May 2019 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/wps.20617> |

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Critical Thinking: the intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully analyzing, evaluating, and conceptualizing information. It involves applying reason, questioning assumptions, and identifying biases to solve problems and make informed, rational judgments.

YouTube, TikTok, Instagram and Snapchat top the list for teens

% of U.S. teens ages 13 to 17 who say they ever use the following apps or sites



Note: Those who did not give an answer are not shown.

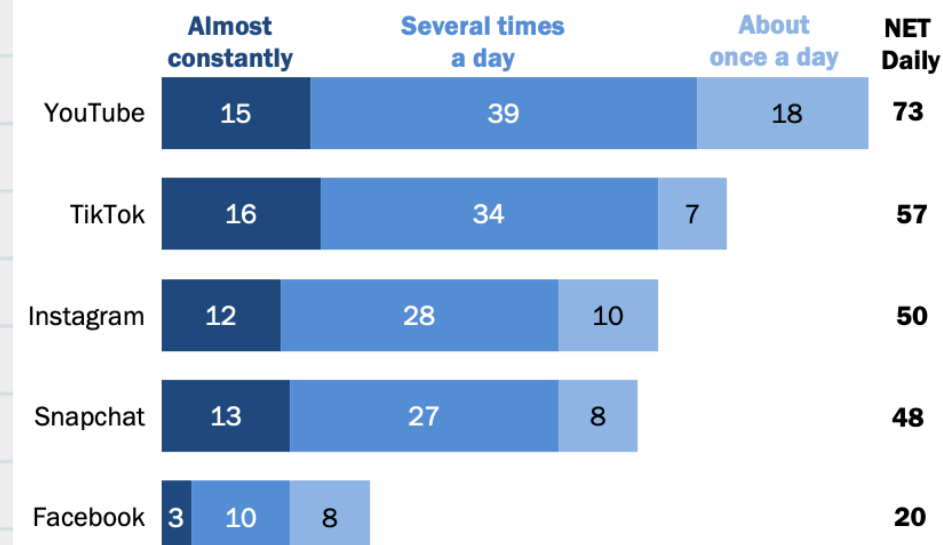
Source: Survey of U.S. teens conducted Sept. 18-Oct. 10, 2024.

"Teens, Social Media and Technology 2024"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Roughly three-quarters of teens visit YouTube daily, while around 6 in 10 say this about TikTok

% of U.S. teens ages 13 to 17 who say they visit or use the following apps or sites ...



Note: Figures may not add up to NET values due to rounding. Those who did not give an answer or gave other responses are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. teens conducted Sept. 18-Oct. 10, 2024.

"Teens, Social Media and Technology 2024"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Pew Research Center reports high and consistent usage of social media apps amongst teens ages 13 to 17 with reported screen time on average being +4 hours daily.

Pew Research Center, "Teens, Social Media and Technology" (Dec 2024 wave)

Finding Videos:

Make your algorithm work for you!



I plugged key phrases into my FYP search bar. Within a week my feed consistently produced videos related to these topics.



Examples:

- Inflation myth
- Fed interest rates
- Unemployment economy
- Why groceries are expensive
- Government debt
- Tariffs

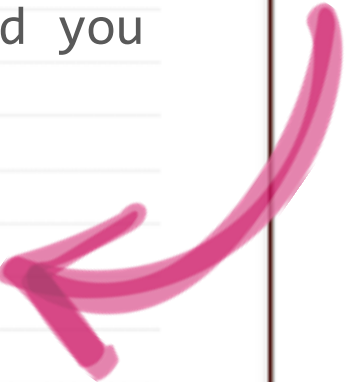
The Activity



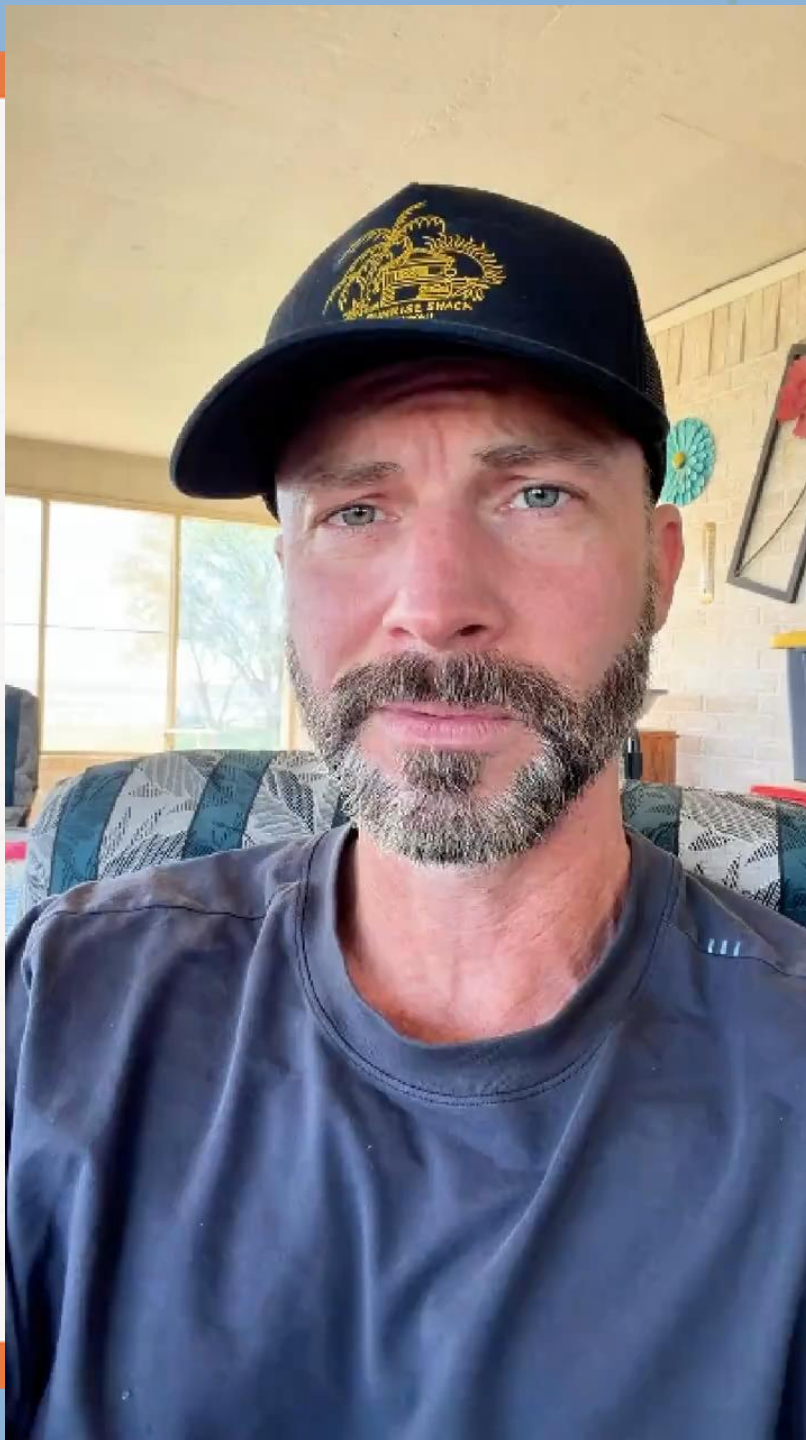
During class students would be given a worksheet and presented a video.

If you were fact-checking this for social media, how would you rate it?

- Accurate
- Mostly accurate
- Misleading
- False



Students will support their answer with whatever information they deem necessary; graphs, definitions, examples from class, etc.



Having trouble downloading
videos?

You can use third party
sites like Snaptik or
SSSTik to download
TikToks that have
disabled them.

Don't have TikTok?

You can also use YouTube
shorts!

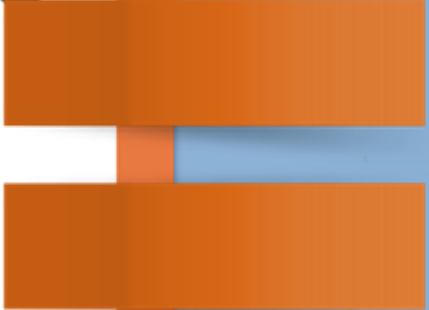
SNAP Benefits

Currently the USDA reports 37.8 – 38.5 million participants (~11% of the U.S. population)

SNAP eligibility varies from state-to-state, but generally speaking for households to be eligible they need to meet income and work requirements.

According to the USDA Economic Research Services total food expenditures were \$2.51 trillion (\$1.1 trillion on groceries) in 2025.

Annual SNAP Funding:
Around \$100 billion to \$102 billion per year.



Some Follow Up Discussion Questions



Does giving people money to spend on food increase demand for food broadly, or mostly stabilize demand for people who'd already be buying food?

If SNAP spending is ~4% of the food market, how big could its price effect really be compared to other factors? What are some of the other factors that would affect price?

Other Topics This Would Work Well With:

Inflation

Claim: "Corporate greed is the only reason inflation happened."

We can discuss:

- Demand-pull vs. cost-push inflation
- Supply chain disruptions
- Fiscal stimulus

Federal Reserve

Claim: "The Fed wants unemployment to go up."

We can discuss:

- Dual mandate
- Phillips Curve
- Natural unemployment

Other Topics:

- Unemployment
- Government Spending
- Recessions
- Trade
- Housing