

# OPERATION NEWS

Thanks to the Internet and digital technology, news and information are all around us. However, just because this information might be available doesn't mean that we all think about it in the same way. The diverse ways in which our Agents think about this information are important clues to helping us understand what news and information mean for the rights of young people like yourself from around the world.

Join us as we search for clues about news and information online!

## MISSION 1: SOURCES

News is all around us and can come in a variety of forms. However, our first step to understanding what is news and what isn't news is by learning what our agents know! What do you consider "news", and where do you get it from?

**When something happens in your country or in the world, where is the first place that you would hear about it? (select up to three)**

- Blogs
- Calls or texts from a family member or friend
- Newsgroups on messaging applications like WhatsApp
- Podcasts
- Print newspapers or magazines
- Radio or television
- Search engines such as Google to see the top stories
- Social media posts made by friends, family members, or someone else that you know
- Social media posts made by news agencies or someone that you do not know
- Video websites such as YouTube
- Websites of newspapers, radio stations, or television outlets
- Wikipedia
- Word-of-mouth (people tell me about it in person)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Once you've heard that something's happening, where would you look to find out more information? (select up to three)**

- Blogs
- Calls or texts from a family member or friend
- Newsgroups on messaging applications like WhatsApp
- Podcasts
- Print newspapers or magazines
- Radio or television
- Search engines such as Google to see the top stories
- Social media posts made by friends, family members, or someone else that you know
- Social media posts made by news agencies or someone that you do not know
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- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you think that large news organizations (tv, newspapers, radio, websites) pay attention to the issues that you care about? Why/why not?**

**Have you ever shared something online that you consider to be news? If you are not sure if what you shared was news, then please describe the situation in the text box below.**

- Yes
- No
- Unsure (please describe)

**If you found out about something that you thought was news, how would you share this information? (select all that apply)**

- I would write a blog post
- I would share it over email
- I would create a meme (i.e. an image or a collection of images with a text written on top)
- I would write an article or an editorial for a newspaper
- I would share it over social media
- I would share it over text message
- I would share it using an app (e.g., on WhatsApp or WeChat) with individual people
- I would share it using an app (e.g., on WhatsApp or WeChat) within a group
- I would create a YouTube video
- I would not share this information
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**When you want to share information online, what challenges do you sometimes face?**

## MISSION 2: SKETCHING

Article 17 of the Convention says that you have a right to access appropriate information that is important to your health and wellbeing. But what does it mean to you? And how does it relate to accessing news online?

Send us a creative piece to help us understand how you feel about your right to information such as news.

The creative piece could be a drawing, a painting, photography, collage, infographic, comic, etc., but all submissions should be your original work. In your creative piece you can try to answer one or some of the questions below:

- What does “online news” mean to you?
- Where do you find out about events that are relevant to your community? (School events, social services, community events, crime or violence, court trials and case decisions, protests, etc. ?)
- If you find out something's going to happen or has already happened in your community (like a politician won an election, a celebrity did something noteworthy, a threat of possible school violence, an update about an event, etc.), how would you let others know?
- What do you think about the way your community, neighborhood, or people like yourself are portrayed in news that you come across on social media or the internet?
- Do you think that people you know portray news about your community, neighborhood, or people like yourself better, or do you think that people you don't know (such as journalists at big newspapers or T.V. reporters) portray it better?

Then, in the box below, write why you created what you did and what your creative piece means to you.

## MISSION 3: COMPARE

In previous Operations many of you have brought up the topic of using the internet or apps to access news. But how does online news compare to other forms of news? Is it just the same thing in another format or is there more to online news?

For each set of three options below, please tick the one that best describes how you feel about online news in comparison to other forms of news.

### Compared to other forms of news, I believe that online news is...

- |    |  |  |                                   |
|----|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | <input type="checkbox"/> Easier to find            | <input type="checkbox"/> Harder to find            | <input type="checkbox"/> The same |
| 2. | <input type="checkbox"/> Easier to share           | <input type="checkbox"/> Harder to share           | <input type="checkbox"/> The same |
| 3. | <input type="checkbox"/> More relatable to my life | <input type="checkbox"/> Less relatable to my life | <input type="checkbox"/> The same |
| 4. | <input type="checkbox"/> More accurate             | <input type="checkbox"/> Less accurate             | <input type="checkbox"/> The same |
| 5. | <input type="checkbox"/> More credible             | <input type="checkbox"/> Less credible             | <input type="checkbox"/> The same |
| 6. | <input type="checkbox"/> More current              | <input type="checkbox"/> Less current              | <input type="checkbox"/> The same |
| 7. | <input type="checkbox"/> More fun                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Less fun                  | <input type="checkbox"/> The same |
| 8. | <input type="checkbox"/> More engaging             | <input type="checkbox"/> Less engaging             | <input type="checkbox"/> The same |

## **MISSION 4: REFLECTION**

On the internet, we can find the stories of many kinds of people. Some of these stories are of people who are similar to us, while other stories are of people who are very different. We want to know if and how these stories help you understand yourself and other people!

**Can you think of a story you read/watched on the internet that made you feel happy or proud of who you are as a person? What was the story about? Why did it make you proud/happy?**

**Can you think of a story you read/watched that made you feel sad about who you are as a person? What was the story about? Why did it make you feel this way?**

**Do stories on the internet help you understand yourself better? Can you think of a time you learnt something new about yourself because of what you saw/read in online news?**

**Do internet stories help you understand other people who are not like you? Can you think of a time you learnt something new about people who are not like you because of what you saw/read in online news?**

**Do the stories you read or watch on the internet make you think differently about topics than ones that you see/hear/read in the newspapers, radio, or TV? Why?**

**Which of your rights are helped by accessing online news?**