

how to start a youth fact-checking program



What is it?

A Teen Fact-Checking Network trains teenagers (14–19) in media literacy and fact-checking and supports them in producing short social media videos that debunk misinformation. The program follows a peer-to-peer approach: teens explain verification methods to other teens on platforms they already use.

* The model presented here is flexible. Organizations are encouraged to adapt the structure to their own resources, context, and goals.

What do you need?

1. A small team

- Project coordinator
- Professional fact-checker / journalist
- Trainer for media literacy or video production

2. A structured program

Typical duration: around 4–5 months, including:

- Workshops on media literacy & fact-checking
- Practical training in scripting, filming & editing
- Weekly meetings and mentoring

Each participant should ideally produce at least one fact-checking video.

3. Teen participants

- Typical requirements:
- Age 14–19
 - Interest in journalism, social media or digital topics
 - Around 40 hours participation

Teens can contribute in different roles:

research, scripting, presenting or editing or do the whole process.

4. Key learning outcomes

- Participants learn to:
- identify misinformation online
 - verify claims & sources
 - use fact-checking tools (e.g. reverse image search)
 - present research results in short videos

5. Partnerships & support

Successful programs usually collaborate with:

- schools and teachers
- media literacy organizations
- fact-checking outlets
- youth organizations

Goal:

Empower young people to recognize misinformation & share fact-checking skills with their peers.