



EduTrend Contents

P4C · TRUTH AND HONESTY · MIDDLE SCHOOL

Can You Mislead Without Lying?

Half-truths, exaggeration and clever wording in adverts and everyday talk

Ages 12–14

Level: Intermediate

50 minutes

Circle and small groups
· up to 30

Activity 04

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 student worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 04 · AT A GLANCE

Can You Mislead Without Lying?

Students study invented examples: an advert saying “Up to 50% off” when only one item is, a student telling parents “I finished my homework” without mentioning it was the easy half, and a headline using a dramatic photo. For each they decide whether anyone lied and whether anyone was misled, then enquire into whether honesty requires more than not telling lies.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session students can:

- distinguish lying and misleading;
- analyse persuasive language;
- evaluate honesty standards;
- apply ideas to media.

KEY WORDS

mislead · half-truth · exaggeration ·
advert · implication · honesty

CURRICULUM LINKS

English: persuasive language.
Media studies: advertising. PSHE:
digital literacy.

1

STIMULUS

Share something to
think about

2

THINK

Quiet thinking time

3

QUESTION

Create and choose
a question

4

ENQUIRE

Reason together

5

BUILD

Agree, disagree,
add

6

REFLECT

Last words

Materials (per class)

- Invented advert and statement cards
- Question and thinking-move cards
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Read the stimulus and note possible concepts.
- Prepare question and thinking-move cards.
- Set out a circle so everyone can see each other.
- Print the worksheets.

SAFETY

Everyone may pass. Discuss ideas, not people, and use the story or invented examples rather than personal situations.

ACTIVITY 04 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Stay neutral: ask for reasons, examples and counter-examples rather than giving your own view.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–8 min Stimulus	Share the misleading examples.	<i>"What did you notice?"</i>
8–20 min Questions	Students create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>"Which question is most interesting to talk about?"</i>
20–44 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other's ideas.	<i>"Can you mislead without lying?"</i>
44–50 min Last words	Each person says one last thought or passes.	<i>"Has your thinking changed?"</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Explain whether misleading is as bad as lying, using two examples.

ACTIVITY 04 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Philosophers distinguish lying (saying what you believe false) from misleading (causing a false belief by other means).

Media literacy helps people notice when true statements create false impressions.

Common ideas to listen for

- “If every word is true, it is honest.” Implications matter.
- “Adverts are always lies.” Many mislead without lying.
- “Misleading is harmless.” It can cost people.

Adapting the activity

Support

Highlight the tricky words.

Stretch

Rewrite one advert to be fully honest.

WORKSHEET 1

True but misleading?

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Analyse.

True but misleading?

Example	Any lie?	Misleading how?

WORKSHEET 2

Thinking moves

Use these in the enquiry.

Thinking moves

Thinking move	My example
I agree with... because...	
I disagree with... because...	
An example is...	
A counter-example is...	
Building on what... said...	

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

Is misleading as bad as lying? Before the enquiry I thought... Now I think... because...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight students; copy as needed.

Student	Asks a philosophical question	Gives reasons and examples	Listens and builds on others

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Can You Mislead Without Lying? is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Truth and Honesty programme (middle school, level: intermediate). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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