Results Tables (N = 72)

Table 1. Critical thinking — Key elements

#Element-#Questions-Answers (summary)	n (of 72)	%
1.1. Definition		
49. Concept of critical thinking		
Questioning, independent thinking, truthfulness, political-social impact	35	49%
Logical reasoning / rigorous criteria	16	22%
Correct and easy judgment	11	15%
Cognitive ability/problem solving	10	14%
1.2. Skepticism		
17. Questioning biased or manipulated information		
Always-Often	56	78%
Sometimes-rarely	16	22%
Never	0	0%
18. Ability to detect manipulation in social media news.		
Very capable-Capable	41	57%
Relatively capable- Not very capable	31	43%
Not at all capable	0	0%
19. Skepticism toward information from new information or media sources		
Very skeptical-Quite skeptical	37	51%
Relatively skeptical-Not very skeptical	35	49%
Not at all skeptical	0	0%
20. Consumer comes across online information or is due to active searching		
Strongly agree-Somewhat agree	61	85%
Somewhat disagree-Strongly disagree	11	15%
21. Social media information confirms beliefs rather than contradicts them		
Strongly agree-Somewhat agree	54	75%
Somewhat disagree-Strongly disagree	18	25%

Note. Students could choose multiple options where indicated. Likert-type questions used 4-point scales consolidated into two directional poles, while 5-point scales retained the midpoint when conceptually appropriate.

Table 2. Critical thinking — Key elements

#Element-#Questions-Answers (summary)	n (of 72)	%
1.3. Verification and responsible use of information		
22. Do you often share news found or received on social media?		
Always-Often	16	22%
Sometimes-Rarely	49	68%
Never	7	10%
23. Factors influencing your decision to share news online*		
1. Identity of the person or page sharing it	44	61%
2. Prestige original source has (media outlet)	43	60%
3. Consistency with other reliable sources	31	43%
4. Confirms my pre-existing belief about it	24	33%
5. Verifiable citations or references	20	28%
6. Objective writing style	15	21%
24. Frequency of fact-checking for informed decision-making		
Always-Often	47	65%
Sometimes- Rarely	24	34%
Never	1	1%
26. Searching for information to back up your point of view		
Always-Often	47	65%
Sometimes-Rarely	25	35%
Never	0	0%
27. Tendency to change one's mind when faced with contradictory information		
Always-Often	26	36%
Sometimes-Rarely	46	51%
Never	0	0%
28. Impact of other users' reactions on the decision to share news		
A lot / Moderately	27	38%
A little / No impact	45	62%
30. Considered a well-informed person		
Strongly agree-Somewhat agree	55	76%
Somewhat disagree-Strongly disagree	17	24%
1.4. Values and axiology		
25. Most likely reason for sharing fake news on social media		
Indifference to veracity, driven by attention, amusement, surprise, or indignation	55	77%
Belief that the news is real	11	15%
Awareness that the news is false, but shared anyway	6	8%
46. Relationship between fake news, misinformation, and hate speech		
Strongly agree-Somewhat agree	65	90%
Somewhat disagree–Strongly disagree (the last option received no responses)	7	10%
47. Balance between freedom of speech and information accuracy**		
5-6-7 Highest information accuracy	42	58%
4 Intermediate freedom of speech and information accuracy	23	32%
1-2-3 Highest freedom of speech	7	10%
48. Balance between freedom of speech and respect for dignity and self-image		
5-6-7 Maximum respect for personal dignity and self-image	42	58%
4 Intermediate freedom of speech and respect for dignity and self-image	21	29%
1-2-3 Maximum freedom of speech	10	13%

**Note*: Students could choose multiple options. Response options with marginal frequencies (≤1%) were excluded for clarity, as their inclusion does not affect the overall distribution of responses.

** Note. Responses on the 1–7 scale were grouped into three ranges to reflect preferences toward freedom of speech, information accuracy, or a balanced position.

Table 3. Digital literacy – Key elements

#Element-#Questions-Answers (summary)	n (of 72)	%
2.1. Content evaluation		
2.1.1. Ability to identify information trustworthiness		
7. Social media profiles (active users)*		
Instagram users	70	97%
WhatsApp users	69	96%
TikTok users	39	54%
X (Twitter) users	35	49%
Facebook users	30	42%
Telegram users	17	24%
Other (did not specify)	11	25%
8. Reception of news via these networks*		
Receives via Instagram	45/70	64%
Receives via X	31/35	89%
Receives via WhatsApp	30/69	43%
Receives via TikTok	23/39	59%
Receives via Facebook	16/30	52%
Other (did not specify)	8/11	73%
Receives via Telegram	6/17	35%
9. Social media as the main source of news (above that for newspapers, radio, or TV)		
Strongly agree-Somewhat agree	50	69%
Somewhat disagree-Strongly disagree	22	31%
10. Frequency of finding fake news on social media		
Always-Often	43	60%
Sometimes	28	39%
Rarely-never	1	1%
11. Ease of distinguishing between reliable and fake news on social media		
Very easy-Easy	37	51%
Not very easy	26	36%
Difficult-Very difficult	9	13%
12. Factors used to assess the reliability of news**		
1. Prestige original source has (media outlet)	66	92%
2. Consistency with other reliable sources	46	64%
3. Identity of the person or page sharing it	44	61%
4. Verifiable citations or references	35	49%
5. Objective writing style	15	21%
6. Confirms my pre-existing beliefs about it	6	8%
13. Frequency of verifying the information source when reading online news		
Always-Often	33	46%
Sometimes-Rarely	39	54%
Never	0	0%

* Note. Only participants who reported receiving news through social media were included in this analysis (n = 72). Respondents who indicated that they do not receive news through social media were excluded from subsequent analyses.

** Note. Response options with marginal frequencies (≤1%) were excluded for clarity, as their inclusion does not affect the overall distribution of responses.

Table 4. Digital literacy – Key elements

#Element-#Questions-Answers (summary)	n (of 72)	%
2.1. Content evaluation		
2.1.2. Ability to analyze and evaluate arguments		
14. Trying to identify evidence supporting an important claim in online news		
Always-Often	46	64%
Sometimes-Rarely	26	36%
Never	0	0%
15. Frequency at which you question arguments in online news or articles		%
Always-Often	53	74%
Sometimes- Rarely	19	26%
Never	0	0%
16. Interest in whether arguments in online news are supported by verifiable facts		
Always-Often	54	75%
Sometimes- Rarely	18	25%
Never	0	0%

Table 5. Digital literacy – Key elements

#Element-#Questions-Answers (summary)	n (of 72)	%
2.1.3. Sociotechnical framework		
40. Self-awareness of platform design influence on content consumption		
Very aware-Moderately aware	64	89%
Not very aware-Not at all aware	8	11%
41. Perceived promotion of certain types of content by digital platforms		
Strongly agree-Somewhat agree	72	100%
Somewhat disagree-Strongly disagree	0	0%
42. Perceived influence of algorithms on the content you see on social media		
Highly influenced-Moderately influenced	62	86%
Somewhat influenced-Not influenced at all	10	14%
43. Relationship between users and technology helps or hinders critical thinking		
4-5 Facilitation	14	19%
3-Intermediate	22	31%
1-2 Hindrance	36	50%
44. Perceived degree of user control over content consumption on digital platforms		
A lot-some control	37	51%
Little-No control	35	49%
45. Perceived need for increased user awareness of the impact of digital technologies on decisions and opinions		
Much more / Somewhat more	69	96%
A little more / No need at all	3	4%
53. Digital technology should provide more tools to support users' critical evaluation of the content they consume		
Strongly agree-Somewhat agree	71	99%
Somewhat disagree-Strongly disagree	1	1%

Table 6. Digital literacy – Key elements

#Element-#Questions-Answers (summary)	n (of 72)	%
2.1.4. Socioeconomic framework		
29. Perceived influence of large technology companies on online information		
A lot-Moderately	69	96%
A little-No impact	3	4%
31. Importance of knowing who owns the technology platforms and media used to obtain new		
Strongly agree-Somewhat agree	69	96%
Somewhat disagree-Strongly disagree	3	4%
32. Perceived influence of social media owners' commercial interests on news accuracy		
Totally-Often	63	87%
Sometimes-Rarely	9	13%
Never	0	0%
33. Awareness of the business models underpinning social media		
Very aware-Somewhat aware	60	83%
Not very aware-Not at all aware	12	17%
34. Perceived bias resulting from corporate funding of media outlets		
Strongly agree-Somewhat agree	71	99%
Somewhat disagree-Strongly disagree	1	1%
2.1.5. Socio-historical framework		
35. Understanding the historical changes that have shaped how information is received		
Very important-Somewhat important	70	97%
Not very important-Not important at all	2	3%
36. Knowledge of changes in society and the economy that have influence the creation of media and social media platforms		
Very informed-Somewhat informed	54	75%
Not very informed-Not at all informed	18	25%
37. Perceived changes in media and information control with the emergence of new technologies		
Strongly agree-Somewhat agree	64	89%
Somewhat disagree-Strongly disagree	8	11%
38. Perceived impact of technology on power dynamics between governments, businesses, and the general public		
Greatly-Somewhat	71	99%
Little-Not impact	1	1%
39. Relevance of understanding the historical relationships between the media and political or social change		
Very relevant-Moderately relevant	69	96%
Not very relevant-Not relevant	3	4%

Table 7. Post-truth – *Fake News – Fact-checking*

Item (short)	n (of 72)	%
50. Concept of post-truth		
Means "after the truth" and refers to all narratives that compete in an arena and in which each person chooses the one that suits them best	30	42%
Is a set of prejudices or unchallenged thoughts assimilated as being one's own that render the subjective absolute truths even though these do not really exist.	19	26%
Is a deliberate distortion of reality aimed at manipulating beliefs and emotions to influence public opinion and social attitudes.	16	22%
Is nothing new, just another way of saying " a lie".	7	10%
51. Concept of "fake news"		
Is deliberately fabricated disinformation for political or commercial purposes, thinly veiled as real news.	46	64%
Is a post-truth weapon used to prevent false or distorted information from being challenged. That is, news stories that present falsehoods as truth.	16	22%
Are parodies or send ups that distort real news stories believed by those less politically savvy or lacking in social media skills.	6	8%
Are false or misleading headlines created by bots to create clickbait because there are commercial interests involved.	4	6%
52. Do you know of any fact-checkers? (A)		
Yes	18	25%
No	54	75%
52. Do you know of any fact-checkers? Which ones? * *Response options derived inductively from participants' prior open-ended answers*		
1. Maldita.es	9	13%
2. Newtral	5	7%
3. Colombiacheck	2	3%
4. Release agent	1	1%
5. Debrunk	1	1%
6. Damn rumor	1	1%
7. Reuters	1	1%
8. EFE Verifica	1	1%
9. RTVE	1	1%
10. Fastcheckcl	1	1%
11. Ground news	1	1%

***Note*:** Some responses reflect imprecise or colloquial references to information sources, as reported verbatim by participants (e.g.,"Release agent").