Hello! My name is Grace Vignuolo and I am a Girl Scout of Central and Southern New Jersey. I recently completed my Gold Award project, which is similar to an Eagle Scout project for Boy Scouts. I am excited to share my story and my project with my community. My goals are to teach people about the importance of information literacy, and to hopefully inspire others to make an impact in their community.

About my Project

My project is about information literacy, which is defined as

"...recognizing when information is needed and being able to efficiently locate, accurately evaluate, effectively use, and clearly communicate information in various formats."

- Wesleyan University

I chose this topic for my Gold Award project because many people do not accurately evaluate information they find on the internet. The rise of social media has resulted in many people receiving their news from apps like Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, and Twitter and taking in every word without hesitation. Russia's alleged meddling in our elections and our own President's accusations regarding "fake news" is even more alarming. These trends, combined with cuts in funding in schools and public libraries, seemed like a problem to me. I wanted to spread my message that when reading something on the internet it is so important to check what the source of the information is.

I began my project by teaching 4th and 5th graders information literacy and proper research skills at the Milltown Public Library. I taught them how to take information from sources and put them in their own words and how to cite their sources. At the end of each session I gave each child a bag of cards that had the information I taught on them. Next I taught 6th and 8th graders information literacy at Joyce Kilmer Middle School during their language arts classes. We went

over how to tell credible sources from non-credible ones, The Dewey Decimal System, and how to cite sources. At the end of each session each child got a bookmark with information literacy tips on it. Additionally I created posters with the information I taught on them. They are in The Milltown Public Library. I also created a book display for young adult readers called "If you liked the movie you'll love the book". All of the books on my display were books that were made into movies. This display was put in the Milltown Public Library.

Information Literacy Tips

- Websites that have **.gov** or **.edu** are always credible, but sources that end with **.com** in them can go either way. It is best to be skeptical of those websites.

- To cite a source list the: **author, title, the website, the publishers,** and the **date** the article was created.

　　Ex: **Rosenberg Jennifer. History of the Olympics Creating the Modern Olympic Games. Thoughtco.com, July 15, 2015.**

- When citing a source if you cannot find an **author,** a **publisher,** and a **date of publication** you should not be using that source.

- When in doubt you can use **Ebsco Host** which is a helpful database filled with sources like books, magazines, and newspapers.

- This is the Milltown Public Library's database

- When using it you can always be sure your source is credible

- The steps to get to it are…

　　1. Go to the Milltown Public Library's website

　　　- (http://www.lmxac.org/milltown/)

　　2. Click ebsco host on the left hand side

　　3. Type in your ID from your library card

　　4. Click EBSCO host web

5. Click literary reference center and then continue

6. Type in the topic you want to search

- A **glossary** has definitions of terms that were used throughout a source and an **index** tells you where these terms are located throughout the source.

- You can also use the **Dewey Decimal System**, a system where items are classified by subject matter, to find sources you need in a library.