Noun (Click on the speech icon to hear the pronunciation of the word [və ras′ə tē])

- Unwillingness to tell lies; habitual truthfulness
- Truthfulness or honesty
- Precision or accuracy (a report of doubtful veracity)
- Something true; a truth (makes lies sound like veracities)

Veracity sounds like some kind of disease you don’t want to catch, but in fact, it means truthfulness. If you question the veracity of a statement or story, you wonder whether it is truthful or accurate.

Veracity is linked to the adjective veracious or "truthful." But don’t confuse veracious with voracious. A voracious person eats very large amounts of food. If you were veracious, or "truthful," you’d tell them they eat too much.

Other forms and related words: veracious (adj.), verity (n.), verisimilitude (n.), verify (v.)

- Synonyms: credibility, exactitude, integrity, candor, probity, rectitude
- Antonym: mendacity, mendaciousness, deceit, deceitfulness, dishonesty, lying

Usage:
- Dumping the newspaper, John frantically worked the phone to ascertain the veracity of the report.
- “Had there been only two or three witnesses, doubts might have been cast on the veracity of these accounts.” (Clive Barker: THE GREAT AND SECRET SHOW, 2001)
- Meanwhile, every other tabloid in the land continues to discuss the allegations in detail and ponder their veracity.
- No one has investigated the veracity of the complaints he collected.
- We questioned the veracity of his statements.
- The jury did not doubt the veracity of the witness.
- Voters should be concerned about the candidate’s veracity and character.
- No one can question the veracity of his account.
- Of the veracity of the narrator, it was impossible for me to doubt.

veracity (veras′itē), (Medical)

*n legal principle that states that a health professional should be honest and give full disclosure to the patient, abstain from misrepresentation or deceit, and report known lapses of the standards of care to the proper agencies.

Mosby’s Dental Dictionary, 2nd edition. © 2008 Elsevier, Inc. All rights reserved.
**DIRECTIONS**: Discuss the meaning of the word with your students, with special emphasis on any variations or nuances of the word specific to your discipline. Consider taking it a step further by using one or all of the following ideas as you involve students with the new vocabulary. **Remember to preview all content you intend to share with students. Not all items on the lists provided below are appropriate for all classes or age levels.**

# Mnemonics for “Veracity”
Discuss these memory aids for remembering what veracity means with your students:

- **ver**=truth, so truthfulness or honesty; VERUS is a Latin root for true
- VERITASERUM...a potion in the Harry Potter book series which is used to make people tell the truth (see #4 below for more information)
- **Veracity** (verify + accuracy) = truthful
- **Veracity** and Voracity were two cities, people of “Vora” city used to eat too much and people of “Vera” city used to tell the truth about their fattiness, which caused differences between two cities (in this way you can remember both words)
- You must have the audacity to exhibit **veracity**!!! Audacity means courage...veracity means truthfulness......(2 words at a go)

# Cognates for “Veracity”
Discuss the words used for truth (veracity) in other languages:

- Spanish = verdad, verosimilitud
- French = vérité
- Italian = verità
- Latin = verum, veritas
- Portuguese = verdade

# “Veracity” of web sites
Discuss the veracity of web sites with students when talking to them about source credibility and reliability. Some web sites can look very convincing, but are truly garbage. Many of you might recall that Susan Adams teaches our students about this using the MLK, Jr. web site published by the KKK. Check out these other less-than-veritable web sites with your students:

**Black helicopters**—Black Helicopters (BH) are not just helicopters with a black paint-job as you may have been told. They are, in fact, autonomous agents -- lifeforms -- created by New World Order (NWO) agencies via nanobiotechnology. [http://zapatopi.net/blackhelicopters/](http://zapatopi.net/blackhelicopters/)

**Aluminum foil detector**—an Aluminum Foil Deflector Beanie (AFDB) is a type of headwear that can shield your brain from most electromagnetic psychotronic mind control carriers. [http://zapatopi.net/afdb/](http://zapatopi.net/afdb/)

**Belgian conspiracy**—the existence of the supposed European country of Belgium has been taken as gospel for years by members of the Liberati. It has long been held up as a shining example of Liberal philosophies in action. However, now is the time the truth be known. Belgium doesn’t exist. [http://zapatopi.net/belgium/](http://zapatopi.net/belgium/)
#4 Veritaserum in *Harry Potter*

*Veritas* is Latin for *truth*. In the *Harry Potter* book and movie series, Professor Snape threatens Harry by telling him that while it is expressly forbidden to use veritaserum on students, he might be tempted otherwise. Later, Professor Snape actually uses veritaserum on Marty Crouch, Jr who is disguised as a professor in the school, to “get the truth” out of him. Watch this short excerpt of Professor Snape explaining to Harry what veritaserum is:

“Severus Snape ‘Don't Lie To Me’” (Veritaserum) (1:34)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-sSaxiQBFY

#5 Read this article from the Media and Advertising section of *The New York Times* entitled “If a Story Is Viral, Truth May Be Taking a Beating” by Ravi Somaiya and Leslie Kaufman (published 9 Dec. 2013). In the fourth paragraph on page two, Joshua Benton, director of the Nieman Journalism Lab at Harvard, is quoted as saying “…uncertainty about a story’s veracity is unlikely, in most cases, to keep an editor from posting it.”

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/10/business/media/if-a-story-is-viral-truth-may-be-taking-a-beating.html?partner=rss&emc=rss&_r=0

#6 Read this article from the Movies section of *The New York Times* entitled “William Miles, Maker of Documentaries about Black History, Dies at 82” by Bruce Weber (published 18 May 2013). In 1992, Miles produced and directed a film entitled *Liberators* “about black army units that helped to free Nazi concentration camps at the end of World War II.” In this article, Nina Rosenblum, co-producer and director of Miles’ 1992 film, states that “It was the only film he ever made that had its veracity questioned.” Read why in the second half of this article.


#7 Read this article from the Sports section of *The Seattle Times* entitled “Judging Talk Overshadows Figure Skating Again” by Barry Wilner (published 21 Feb. 2014). Wilner discusses the fact that, once again, at the Olympics in Russia, “winning can be obscured by whining.” In the article, he cites the fact that “American Ashley Wagner, who finished seventh, questioned the veracity of the points system and, most notably, the lack of openness in it.”


#8 Watch this March 11, 2013 news story entitled “Veracity News Story” (4:13) about a San Diego company that has created a *touch-screen stress analyzer* that tests a person’s veracity—a lie detector of sorts. The company hopes to see them used in places such as airports and immigration checkpoints.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZyXW7WE6z3A

Check out the marketing brochure for this device: http://www.pysa.net/
Veracity and Big Data

Read this article from *Forbes*, by Lisa Arthur, entitled “**What Is Big Data?**” (published 15 Aug. 2013). Arthur writes “about how data and data-driven marketing are changing business.” In her article, she explains that “big data is a collection of data from traditional and digital sources . . . that represents a source for ongoing discovery and analysis.” She goes on to explain that “industry leaders . . . use phrases like ‘volume’ (the amount of data), ‘velocity’ (the speed of information generated and flowing into the enterprise) and ‘variety’ (the kind of data available) to begin to frame the big data discussion. Others have focused on additional V’s, such as big data’s *veracity* and ‘value.’”

http://www.forbes.com/sites/lisaarthur/2013/08/15/what-is-big-data/

For iPad users, there is also a **Big Data app** called “The Human Face of Big Data” that is pretty cool, and it is free!

**TED Talk:** “Making Sense of Too Much Data”--It's the age of Big Data. But what, exactly, do we do with all this information? These talks explore practical, ethical — and spectacularly visual — ways to understand near-infinite data. (20 min.)  
#10 Quotes to discuss with your students or have them do a quick-write response:

**Truth in spirit, not truth to the letter, is the true veracity.**

(ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON)

**“HOPE IS THE ONLY UNIVERSAL LIAR WHO NEVER LOSES HIS REPUTATION FOR VERACITY.”**

ROBERT GREEN INGERSOLL

**Veracity is the heart of morality.**

(THOMAS HENRY HUXLEY)
Practice critical reading of complex (or not-so-complex) texts by having students analyze this cartoon. Have them explain the caption, but also have them discuss elements of graphic art such as depicting motion, sound, and emotion. Lastly, focus on the use of the word veracity in the caption by having them identify the manufacturer's claims and then give their opinion on the veracity of the claims (with support from the graphic).