



Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Combat Those Rumours!

An activity of the Maria Hertogh series

The story of Maria Hertogh’s childhood is a part of Singapore’s history because of the riots triggered by the court case about her. When historians looked closer at why people rioted, they wondered whether the violence had more to do with the rumours about Maria’s case than about her welfare. Later, when Maria was taken to the Netherlands, she was the victim of rumours again. This time the media gave her a hard time. Read about what happened in the stories at our website (<http://more.whatsup.sg>). In hindsight, we can see that someone should have stomped out those rumours to give Maria a fair chance in life.

The world today is very different from the one that Maria had to endure. However, rumours still have the power to wreak havoc in our lives. If we want to give every person — including ourselves — a fair chance to live with dignity and self-respect, we must combat harmful rumours at school and in our neighbourhoods. This activity helps you to develop the know-how for combating rumours. Work in pairs to respond to the following.

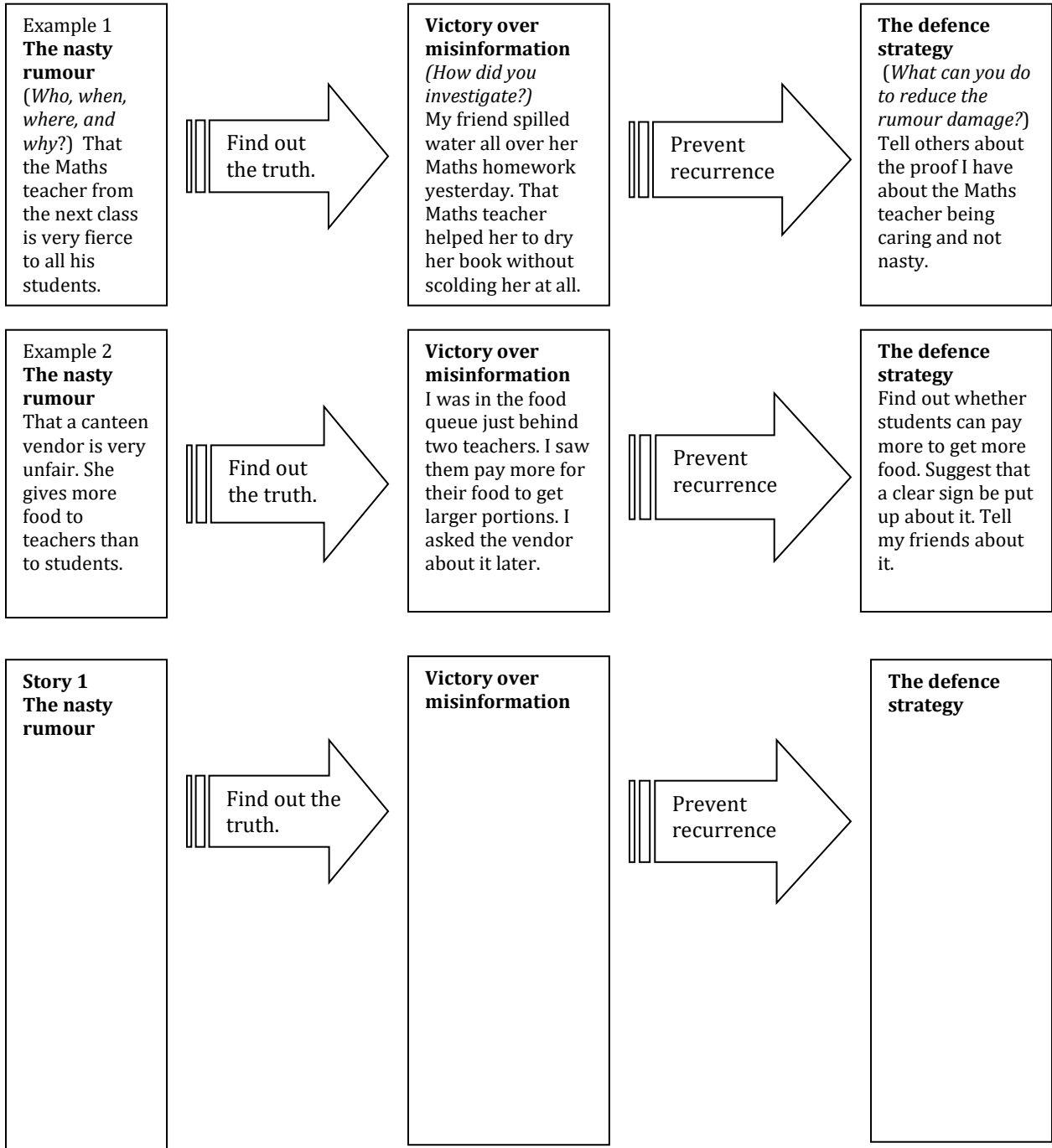
1. The articles "Photos of Maria tell different stories" and "Maria at the convent" give examples of how rumours were created and used purposely to get people upset. List two rumours that led to the 1950 protests outside the courthouse becoming violent.

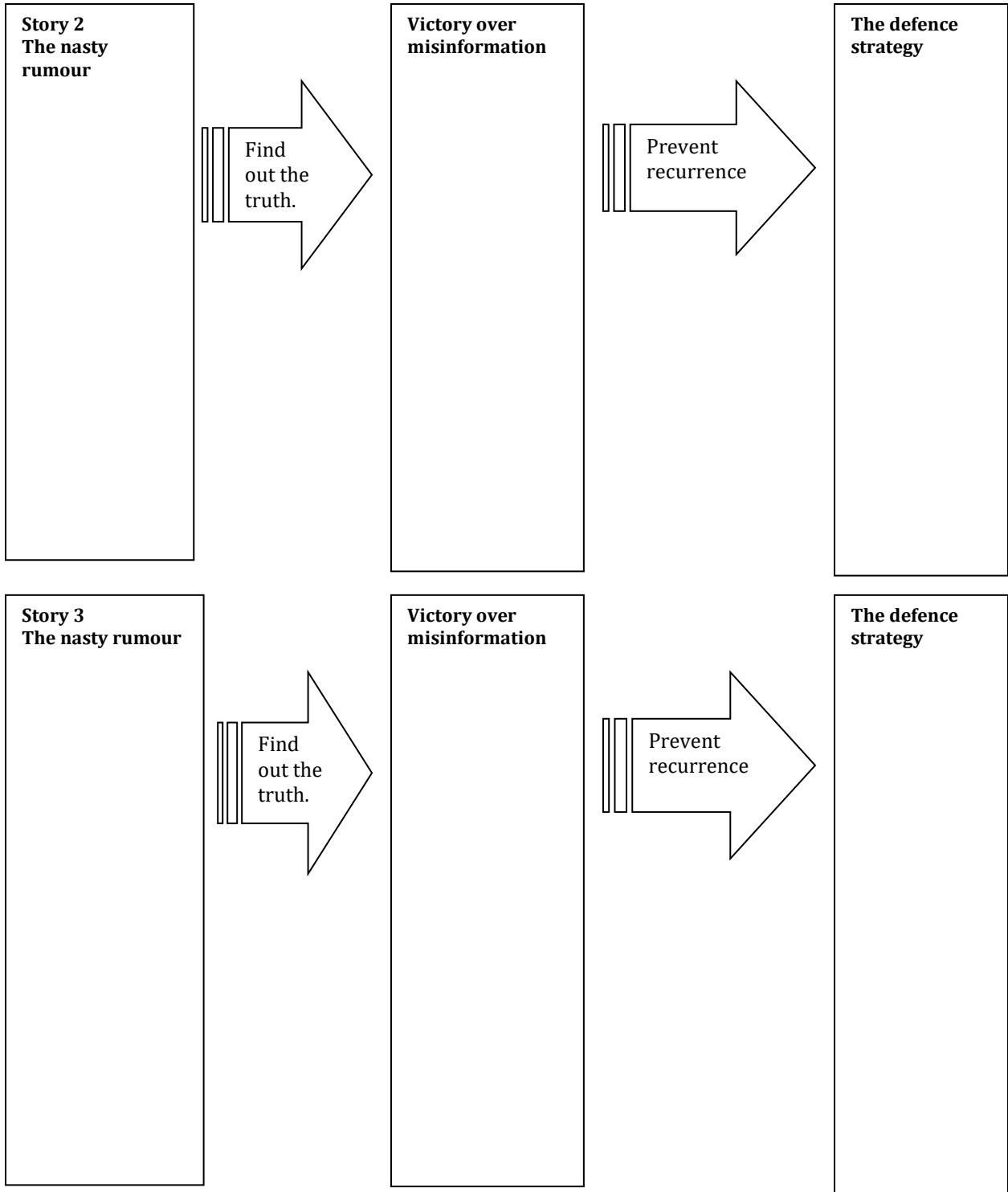
2. If these rumours were to be spread today, what are some ways you could stop them?

3. Make up three stories about the destructive power of rumours at school. You can use parts of real-life incidents. Your stories should sound authentic — they should be about

something that really could happen at your school amongst your peers. Do not use real names though.

Fill in the spaces below to show how the battle against misinformation was fought in your stories.





We can all play our part to combat the spread of rumours!