

Online Safety 4: Sharing Your Views & Telling Fact From Fiction

Interacting Online

- Review Websites ex/ Yelp
- Social Media ex/ Facebook
- Email
- Blogs and Vlogs (video blogs)
- News websites and comment sections

Sharing Your Views

- What goes on the Internet, stays on the Internet (forever!)
- Keep it civil
- Know fact from fiction

Fake News

Fake News: News, stories or hoaxes created to deliberately misinform or deceive readers

- Disinformation for profit, political gain or crime
- Viral pranks
- Uncritically reporting a hoax as fact

Clickbait: Stories that are deliberately fabricated to gain more website visitors and increase ad revenue for websites.

Propaganda: Stories that are created to deliberately mislead audiences, promote a biased point of view or particular political cause or agenda.

What is NOT Fake News

- Stories from satire websites
- Satirical stories from regular news sites
- Honest reporting mistakes
- Critical reporting to determine if something is a hoax or not
- Journalism you don't like or agree with

How to Spot Fake News

1. *Take a Closer Look*
 - a. Check the source. Do you recognize the website? Is it a reliable source? If you are unfamiliar with the website, look in the “about” section or find out more information about the author.
2. *Look Beyond the Headline*
 - a. Read the entire article, many fake news stories use sensationalist or shocking headlines to grab attention. Often the headlines of fake news stories are in ALL CAPS and use exclamation points (!!!).
3. *Check Other Sources*
 - a. Are other reputable news/media outlets reporting on the story? Are there any sources in the story? If so, check they are reliable or if they even exist!
4. *Check the Facts*
 - a. Fake news stories often contain incorrect dates or altered timelines. It is also a good idea to check when the article was published. Is it current or an old news story?
5. *Check Your Biases*
 - a. Are your own views or beliefs affecting your judgement of a news feature or report?
6. *Is it a Joke?*
 - a. Satirical sites are popular online and sometimes it is not always clear whether a story is just a joke or a parody. Check the website, is it known for satire or creating funny stories? Common satire websites include The Onion, The Daily Mash and The Beaverton.

Fact Checking Websites:

PolitiFact: www.politifact.com

Snopes: www.snopes.com

Media Matters: www.mediamatters.org

Fake News Quiz: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/community/digital-lab/fake-news-quiz-how-to-spot/article33821986/>

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