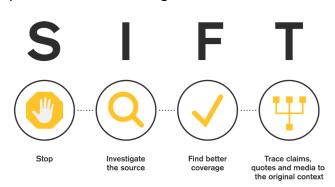
Fact-Checking



Fact-checking¹ is crucial for evaluating the credibility of information encountered online. In a digital landscape where misinformation and disinformation are rampant, fact-checking helps individuals discern truth from falsehood and make informed decisions.

Applications

- Teach lateral reading.² This is a strategy for investigating who's behind an unfamiliar online source by leaving the webpage, searching for the source in a new tab, and seeing what various reputable sources have to say about the unknown source. Provide students a mix of legitimate and illegitimate news sources to practice on, and discuss their reasons for deeming a website trustworthy or not.
- Introduce students to the **SIFT** method.³ SIFT stands for Stop; Investigate the source; Find better coverage; and Trace claims, quotes, and media to the original context. This is a useful way to remember the key components of fact-checking.
- Luckily, we don't need to do all the fact-checking ourselves, because there are many nonpartisan, professional fact-checking organizations out there; some of these include <u>FactCheck.org</u>, <u>AP</u> <u>Fact Check</u>, <u>Reuters Fact Check</u>, and many more that are tracked by the <u>Duke Reporters' Lab</u>.



Source: UChicago Library

Notes

Fact-checking can often feel overwhelming, as it's not realistic to fact-check every bit of new information we encounter. The ability to fact-check when needed, though, is now an essential life skill. Given that there will always be more information than we can critically fact-check, remind students to maintain a skeptical perspective when consuming news media, especially from sources that are untrustworthy or unfamiliar.

Learn More

"<u>Don't be fooled... fact check!</u>" Fact-checking guide by Melanie Trecek-King of Thinking Is Power RumorGuard's Five Factors, five factors to consider when evaluating the credibility of a claim

¹ for a more comprehensive guide to fact-checking see Thinking Is Power's Don't be fooled... fact check!

² Civic Online Reasoning, Sort Fact from Fiction Online with Lateral Reading

³ Research Guides at Clark College, <u>Evaluating Information: SIFT (The Four Moves)</u>