DON'T FALL FOR FAKE NEWS!

MISINFORMATION CAN EASILY RUN RAMPANT.

THE GOOD NEWS? *Anyone can learn how to spot fake news and stop it from spreading. Here are some tips to evaluate a story's accuracy.*

Check out the website

Fake news sites will often use a real-sounding URL, but will have uncommon extensions such as ".com.co" instead of ".com"

Question where it came from

Think about how you found the source. Was it shared to you through social media, or did you seek it out on your own? False stories often incite readers to share using social media.

Consider the source

Investigate the organization's mission and its contact information. Can you determine a political slant? Does the site produce mostly satirical content?

Investigate the author

Do a quick search to make sure they are real. What are their credentials?

Read the whole story

Headlines can be outrageous or misleading in an effort to get clicks. Does the content match up with the headline? Is the story clear, or are important facts missing? Is the article's date current?

Think about the evidence

Check out the supporting sources for yourself to see if the evidence really exists and if it could be used to draw a different conclusion.

Get a second opinion!

→ Find out how other news outlets are reporting the same story. **Allsides.com** offers stories reporting from a right-wing perspective, left-wing perspective or straight from the center.

→ Consult a reputable fact-checking site. **Snopes.com** and **Factcheck.org** are two examples of sites that provide thorough research on popular stories, report any corrections that may occur and acknowledge when there's a lack of sufficient evidence to draw a conclusion.

WHEN IN DOUBT,

ASK A LIBRARIAN!

We are here to help you find the facts.

SOURCES:

"Five ways to spot and stop fake news," Harvard Library, Harvard University: http://guides.library.harvard.edu/fake

"How to Spot Fake News," IFLA: https://www.ifla.org/publications/node/11174

"Ten questions for fake news detection," The News Literacy Project: http://www.thenewsliteracyproject.org/sites/default/files/GO-TenQuestionsForFakeNewsFINAL.pdf

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