

How to Evaluate Sources Correctly

In today's world, it has gotten hard to evaluate whether the information you are seeing is true or not, especially on social media. In that regard, propaganda is easily spread in society today, so it is extremely important to decipher whether what you're seeing is factual. Below are the best tips from several sources regarding source evaluation:

WHO IS THE AUTHOR?

- Assess the author's expertise
- What are their qualifications? Do they have other affiliations related to the topic?
- Are they knowledgeable in their field?



IS THE SOURCE VERIFIED?

- Consider the reputation of the platform posting the info
- What is the academic credibility of the publication?
- Is it a published work? Or just a post on social media (Social media posts cannot always be regarded as true)

IS THE IMAGE ACCURATE?

- Deepfakes and generated images are becoming more and more convincing. Make sure the associated image is legitimate
- Are there jagged edges or unusual shadows?



IS IT CURRENT INFORMATION?

- Think about your topic; medical/technological subjects need to be up to date
- Determine how recent the information is
- Usually, 5-10 years is preferable, depending on the topic

CAN YOU CONFIRM THE INFO?

- How accurate is the information being presented?
- Make sure you are verifying the facts and cross-referencing with other reliable sources



IS THERE STRONG BIAS?

- Consider any potential biases or agendas that may be present
- If the information is biased, it may not be fully accurate

HAS IT BEEN PEER REVIEWED?

- Has the source been reviewed by other experts?
- Particularly depending on your topic, having peer-reviewed information could be critical
- This ensures the quality of information is high



ARE CITATIONS PRESENT?

- Does the information include statistics?
- Make sure to check if the source includes references or citations to support its claims
- Also, check if those references are from reputable sources

Resources

<https://digitalaptech.com/6-best-ways-to-identify-fake-information-on-social-media/>

<https://www.stevenson.edu/online/about-us/news/how-to-identify-reliable-information/>

<https://lewisu.libguides.com/c.php?g=626922&p=445509>