



TEN QUESTIONS FOR NEWS DETECTION

Use the questions below to assess the likelihood that a piece of information is fake news. The more red flags you circle, the more skeptical you should be!



1. Gauge your emotional reaction:
Is it **strong**? Are you **angry**? Are you intensely **hoping** that the information turns out to be true? YES NO
2. Reflect on how you encountered this. Was it promoted on a website? Did it show up in a social media feed? Was it sent to you by someone you know?
3. Consider the headline or main message:
 - a. Does it use **excessive punctuation(!)** or ALL CAPS for emphasis? YES NO
 - b. Does it make a claim about containing a secret or telling you something that **"the media" doesn't want you to know**? YES NO
 - c. Don't stop at the headline! Keep exploring.
4. Is this information designed for **easy sharing**, like a **meme**? YES NO
5. Consider the source of the information:
 - a. Is it a well-known source? YES NO
 - b. Is there a byline (an author's name) attached to this piece? YES NO
 - c. Go to the website's "About" section: Does the site describe itself as a "fantasy news" or "**satirical news**" site? YES NO
 - d. Does the person or organization that produced the information have any editorial standards? YES NO
 - e. Does the "contact us" section include an email address that matches the domain (not a Gmail or Yahoo email address)? YES NO
 - f. Does a quick search for the name of the website raise any suspicions? YES NO
6. Does the example you're evaluating have a current date on it? YES NO
7. Does the example cite a variety of sources, including official and expert sources? Does the information this example provides appear in reports from (other) news outlets? YES NO
8. Does the example hyperlink to other quality sources? In other words, they haven't been altered or taken from another context? YES NO
9. Can you confirm, using a reverse image search, that any images in your example are authentic (in other words, sources that haven't been altered or taken from another context)? YES NO
10. If you searched for this example on a fact-checking site such as Snopes.com, FactCheck.org or PolitiFact.com, is there a fact-check that labels it as less than true? YES NO



REMEMBER:

- It is easy to clone an existing website and create fake tweets to fool people.
- Bots are extremely active on social media and are designed to dominate conversations and spread propaganda.
- Fake news and other misinformation often use a real image from an unrelated event.
- Debunk examples of misinformation whenever you see them. It's good for democracy!