How to Check News Sources

Or When to Call Fake News Out

I found a news article online - Can I use it in my assignment?

Use this chart to identify potentially misleading news stories, articles, videos, and other media before clicking the SHARE button or relying on it for an assignment.

1. Can you see a date?
   - Look at the article. Can you see a recent publication date?
     - What about a recent Copyright or "last updated" date?
     - If yes, continue.
     - If no, FIND A DIFFERENT SOURCE.

2. Do you trust the site?
   - Do you recognise the website? Is the name or logo familiar?
     - Does the address look OK (e.g., doesn't end in ".com.co")?
     - Can you easily find reliable information about the site?
     - If yes, continue.
     - If no, FIND A DIFFERENT SOURCE

3. Is the author real?
   - Is an author listed?
     - Do they have a believable biography on the site?
     - Do they have a Wikipedia page?
     - Can you find their other articles in different publications?
     - If yes, continue.
     - If no, FIND A DIFFERENT SOURCE

4. Read the whole story
   - Does the story deliver what the headline promised?
     - Are claims made in the story backed up with links?
     - Are other news outlets talking about the same thing?
     - If yes, IT'S GOOD TO USE.
     - If no, FIND A DIFFERENT SOURCE

Remember:
Anger Feeds Fake News

Question your sources
Be curious but sceptical
Learn which news sources are generally reliable
Ask a librarian for help

Developed by James Cook University Library

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