

Is It Fake News?

Think about It! Be Skeptical!

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BEFORE YOU READ:

1. What are *deep fakes* and *fake news*? Share what you know.
2. What does it mean to be *skeptical*? What are some things you are *skeptical* about? Give some examples.

Think Critically

In the 2024 elections, we need to be aware of *fake news* and *deep fakes*. It is now easy for people to share false information. For example, artificial intelligence (AI) can copy the voices of politicians and make it look like they are saying something that they never said. We must protect ourselves by thinking critically and by being *skeptical* of what we read. We cannot take the news at *face value*.

Be Skeptical

Education will help us think critically about what we see in the media. Schools for kids and adults should teach media literacy. We should learn how to fact-check by using tools like Snopes, which can help us know what is true and what is a lie. It is important to verify information before sharing it. We should learn how to know if a source is reputable. We should check multiple sources to try to learn what is true. By being *skeptical*, we can make fake news less effective at tricking people.

Make a Functional Democracy

Everyone should want a better future. It starts with working together to educate ourselves and get the truth on current events. That way, we can have a functional democracy and a president who will commit to making this country a better one for *all* people.



AFTER YOU READ:

1. In the first paragraph, the author says, “It is now easy for people to share false information.” What’s different about now than, say, 10 years ago? How is it easier for people to share false information?
2. In that same paragraph, the author says, “We cannot take the news at *face value*.” What does he mean by that? (Note: “face value” is figurative language.)
3. For more on how to identify fake news, see p. 7.

Juan Ramirez was born in Juarez, Mexico. He enjoys working on cars and taking walks in the evenings. He loves the taste of Mexican food. He likes to spend his time learning as much as he can, especially, English, which is not his first language. He is a student at Ysleta Community Learning Center in El Paso, Texas.

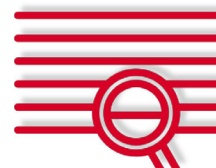


HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS



CONSIDER THE SOURCE

Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.



READ BEYOND

Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?



CHECK THE AUTHOR

Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?



SUPPORTING SOURCES?

Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.



CHECK THE DATE

Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.



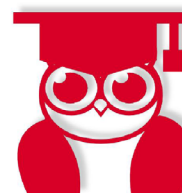
IS IT A JOKE?

If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.



CHECK YOUR BIASES

Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.



ASK THE EXPERTS

Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.



International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

With thanks to www.FactCheck.org

Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:How_to_Spot_Fake_News.jpg