*Print + laminate 11×17* An Infographic Created by **EasyBib** a Chegg service

*make copies of 8½×11 for facy*

## Does the headline match the content?

Read the entire article before deciding to trust it or not as headlines are sometimes fabricated to grab your attention.

## Are there references, links or citations?

These validate the author's information and allow us to easily access and explore more about the information in the article.

## Are there spelling or grammatical errors?

Errors of this nature show that the author might have hastily posted the information or they may not be an authoritative expert in the content they're writing about.

## What is this website?

Find the mission and goals of the website by looking for its "About Us" section.

This information will help you to determine the website's purpose and credibility.

http://whatcontent.org/pigs-fly-over-new-york-city

### Net Now News

# Pigs Fly Over New York City

By Curry Adams

About Net Now News

## Who is the Author?

No author listed is a red flag! It means you can't investigate them to see if they are credible or not.

When there is an author, do a Google search to locate other articles they've written, credentials, and if they can be contacted.

## Are there any direct quotes that are incorrectly used or taken out of context?

Are you able to find the same quote on another website? Or did a Google search of the quote produce something different? Writers can modify quotes to change their meaning and to make you believe something that isn't 100% true.

## Does the article only showcase one side of an argument?

If an article only features one viewpoint, the reader should remind themselves that they're not seeing the full picture. Be cautious of news articles that only report one side of the story.
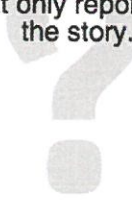
## Is the story completely outrageous?

If the story is unbelievable, chances are it is! Trust your gut instinct and check for many of items discussed in this article.
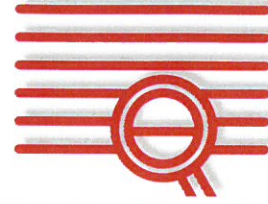
# HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS

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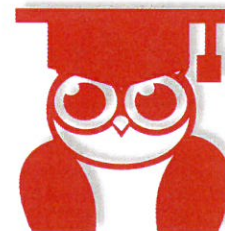Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.

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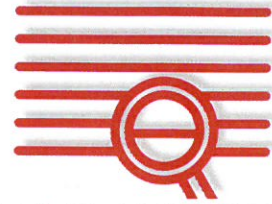
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Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.

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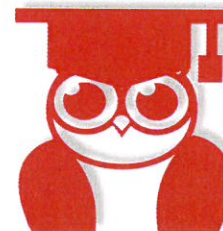Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.

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http://mediamatters.org

*Media Matters for America* is a Web-based, not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) progressive research and information center dedicated to comprehensively monitoring, analyzing, and correcting conservative misinformation in the U.S. media.

### The News Literacy Project (NLP)
http://www.thenewsliteracyproject.org/

The News Literacy Project (NLP) is a nonpartisan national education nonprofit that works with educators and journalists to teach middle school and high school students how to sort fact from fiction in the digital age. NLP provides these students with the essential skills they need to become smart, active consumers of news and information and engaged, informed citizens.

### Center for News Literacy
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### Snopes
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global digital
citizen foundation

# The Ultimate Cheatsheet for
# Critical Thinking

Want to exercise critical thinking skills? Ask these questions
whenever you discover or discuss new information. These are
broad and versatile questions that have limitless applications!

## Who

... benefits from this?
... is this harmful to?
... makes decisions about this?
... is most directly affected?

... have you also heard discuss this?
... would be the best person to consult?
... will be the key people in this?
... deserves recognition for this?

## What

... are the strengths/weaknesses?
... is another perspective?
... is another alternative?
... would be a counter-argument?

... is the best/worst case scenario?
... is most/least important?
... can we do to make a positive change?
... is getting in the way of our action?

## Where

... would we see this in the real world?
... are there similar concepts/situations?
... is there the most need for this?
... in the world would this be a problem?

... can we get more information?
... do we go for help with this?
... will this idea take us?
... are the areas for improvement?

## When

... is this acceptable/unacceptable?
... would this benefit our society?
... would this cause a problem?
... is the best time to take action?

... will we know we've succeeded?
... has this played a part in our history?
... can we expect this to change?
... should we ask for help with this?

## Why

... is this a problem/challenge?
... is it relevant to me/others?
... is this the best/worst scenario?
... are people influenced by this?

... should people know about this?
... has it been this way for so long?
... have we allowed this to happen?
... is there a need for this today?

## How

... is this similar to _____?
... does this disrupt things?
... do we know the truth about this?
... will we approach this safely?

... does this benefit us/others?
... does this harm us/others?
... do we see this in the future?
... can we change this for our good?

## Library Program Big Succes

The Blasco Library was the location of the best Fake News program ever according to the Teen Services Librarian. Participants agreed that they learned 100% more than they would have if they did not attend the program. The presentation was factual and included many colorful resources. Erie library patrons are now more informed about how to determine whether news is factual or false propaganda. Blasco Teen Services programs rank number 1 of all Erie County Teen Service programs! Re[...] are foll[...] imp[...] The[...] that[...] rela[...] the[...] beh[...] of a[...] exp[...]

# [ BREAKING NEWS CONSUMER'S HANDBOOK ]

## FAKE NEWS EDITION

1. Big red flags for fake news: ALL CAPS, or obviously photoshopped pics.

2. A glut of pop-ups and banner ads? Good sign the story is pure clickbait.

3. Check the domain! Fake sites often add ".co" to trusted brands to steal their luster. (Think: "abcnews.com.co")

4. If you land on an unknown site, check its "About" page. Then, Google it with the word "fake" and see what comes up.

5. If a story offers links, follow them. (Garbage leads to worse garbage.) No links, quotes, or references? Another telltale sign.

6. Verify an unlikely story by finding a reputable outlet reporting the same thing.

7. Check the date. Social media often resurrects outdated stories.

8. Read past headlines. Often they bear no resemblance to what lies beneath.

9. Photos may be misidentified and dated. Use a reverse image search engine like TinEye to see where an image *really* comes from.

10. Gut check. If a story makes you angry, it's probably designed that way.

11. Finally, if you're not sure it's true, don't share it! *Don't. Share. It.*

## ON [ THE MEDIA ]

ONTHEMEDIA.ORG

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ON [THE MEDIA]    ONTHEMEDIA.ORG

# TEN QUESTIONS FOR ^FAKE 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!*

**START →**

1. Gauge your emotional reaction:
   Is it strong? Are you angry? Are you intensely hoping that the information turns out to be true? False? 🚩 **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.
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