#### **EVALUATE LIKE A FACT-CHECKER**

FOUR STRATEGIC MOVES TO HELP YOU EVALUATE INFORMATION AND DETERMINE A SOURCES' RELIABILITY, VALIDITY, AND CREDIBILITY.



- If you don't know, then use the rest of SIFT moves to better understand and evaluate what information you are reading or engaging with.
- Don't read or share the information until you know what it is!
- 2. If you are feeling overwhelmed or lost in your evaluation efforts as you use the SIFT moves, **STOP!**

Take a moment and re-ask yourself: What is my research or information goal?

- Adjust your strategy if it isn't working.
- Make sure you approach the problem at the right amount of depth for your purpose.

• Where is the information coming from?

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- Is the resource worth my time?
- 2. Use Google or Wikipedia to investigate a source, website, or organization.

#### **Consider:**

- What is this site or organization set up to do? What is their agenda?
- Is the site or organization I am researching what I thought it was?
- If not, does it make it more or less trustworthy?
- 3. Use Google News or Scholar, to quickly evaluate the expertise and trustworthiness of an individual or group.

### **Consider:**

- What is their expertise in this area?
- Have they covered this topic before? If so, how?



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# SIFT: 4 MOVES

## **Find Better Coverage**

If your initial source is questionable, **find** a better source that covers the same content to determine accuracy of the information/claim.

To find better coverage, do a "quick check" on a source of information, claim, or story by using the following steps:

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- Type keywords from the article title into Google or another search engine.
- If a news article or social media post, use fact checking sites like mediabiasfactcheck.com, <u>snopes.com</u>, or <u>allsides.com</u> to investigate claims that are made.
- **Observe** how the same topic is covered by different sources. Is there a consensus or conflicting coverage? • **Determine** whether the claim is true or false by trying to find reporting by other sources that you have confirmed are credible.

# Trace Claims, Quotes, & Media to the Original Context

Did you know that **most information** online is not original reporting or **research**? It is often commentary or recycled reporting on original research, practice, report, or news story.

The more a story is passed around, the more it becomes altered and warped increasing the likelihood of unintentional mistakes and misleading information (misinformation) or deliberately deceptive information (disinformation) being shared.

- Trace information or a claim back to the original to get a more clear picture of the issue or research, using the following steps:
  - Find more information on the quoted sources

- Check accuracy and trustworthiness of 2. visual representations, using the following steps:
  - Search some relevant text from the image, if, for example it is a meme or a supposed photograph of a sign
  - Reverse image search using <u>Google</u> <u>Images</u> or <u>Tineye.com</u>

- Click any listed links that point towards original studies or reporting that appear related to the original source
- Consult the reference list (if provided)
- Google key terms (or the actual terms) if the source has no mention of the origin.
- 2. After you find the original source, **ask** yourself:
  - Does the original source say the same things as what I read first?
  - Does it contradict or expand on what I read?

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• What new information or value is added?



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