

IS THIS SOURCE RELIABLE OR FAKE?

10 QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

The internet contains a wealth of information. But how do you know which sources you can and cannot trust? These tips should help you along.

+1 GOLDEN TIP

Think critically and gather information from a variety of sources to stay well-informed.



INFO

TIPS

WHO IS THE AUTHOR?

1

Is the name of the author mentioned? Is the author real? Are they known for (un)reliable publications? Do they write for well-known websites / newspapers?

Try to find more information about the author.

WHAT IS THE DATE?

2

When was the article written? Is the information up to date? Sometimes a new date is put on an old article and the information is changed.

Locate the original article.

WHO PUBLISHED THE ARTICLE?

3

A news medium? Is the news medium trustworthy? A person on social media? What audience are they trying to reach?

Read information about the topic from other sources. Do they say the same things?

WHICH SOURCES DID THE AUTHOR USE?

4

Where did the information come from? From a news medium, organisation, interview or report? What do they want to achieve with the article?

Check the sources. Sometimes source information may be wrong, or the source material may have been adapted.

IS THE TITLE NEUTRAL?

5

The title doesn't always reflect what is in the article. Titles are meant to draw attention. Did you know that titles online are often written to get more clicks and often use quotes?

Always read beyond the title.

WHY DOES THE AUTHOR WRITE THIS ?

6

What is the author's intention? Is it an advert? Is it an opinion? Is it meant to make you laugh?

Search for elements that tell you why the author wrote the piece.

ARE THE REFERENCES CORRECT?

7

Many articles contain references to other websites, organisations or information. But that doesn't mean they are real or say what the article says they say.

Check the references in the article.

WHY AM I SEEING THIS?

8

Did you know that sometimes you are specifically targeted with a post? That can be a result of what you search for online, who your friends are or what your preferences are.

Regularly clear your browser history and cookies. Follow a variety of media and people for a well-balanced worldview.

WHAT ARE MY PRECONCEPTIONS?

9

Everyone carries prejudice. You will often have a preference for someone's works or opinions. Your personal opinions or striking images may influence your judgement.

Talk to friends, adults or experts about your ideas.

HOW IS THE INFO PRESENTED?

10

Some warning signs: edited images, spelling mistakes, lots of capitals, and exclamation marks are suspicious.

Look at images critically.



This checklist is based on the 'Nieuws in de Klas Nederland' checklist and was compiled in collaboration with StampMedia. Y.U.: Andy Demeulenaere, Andy Demeulenaere, imec vzw, Kapeldreef 75, 3001 Leuven. All rights reserved. Design by Atelier Per Tussen. The authors are not responsible and cannot be held liable for any damages, directly or indirectly, as a result of following the information in this publication.

