

Verify Before You Share

In order for us to make choices about which current event issues matter to us, which political representatives and policies to support, and our own personal behavior, we seek out **INFORMATION.**

If you are using Social Media to get your news

- May not be getting the whole story
- Hard to tell the difference between real news and humor
- May be getting “fake news” or DISINFORMATION

If we don't check our **SOURCES** and **FACTS**, we may be guilty of relying on and spreading **MISINFORMATION** that is **inaccurate, incomplete, and misleading.**

DISINFORMATION

False information is **knowingly shared to cause harm.**

MISINFORMATION

False information is shared, but **no harm is meant.**

VERIFY CREDIBILITY OF INFORMATION

Authenticate **SOURCE**

Make sure the source actually made the claims or posted the image.

The source may be an individual, news organization, or non-news organization.

- Is the source credible and trustworthy?
- Does the source have biases that might affect the credibility of the information?
- Does the source have expert credentials or cite individuals with expert credentials?

Check accuracy of **FACTS**

Make sure that the information is based on facts which can be proven right or wrong. Do not rely on opinions which are a person's feelings or beliefs and cannot be proven right or wrong.

- Can information be proved or disproved based on verifiable factual evidence?
- Have fact-checking websites reviewed the claim?
- Can you find original evidence for claim?

Practice **LATERAL READING** to authenticate

Can **INFORMATION** be confirmed by various sources, even those different from our own?

VERTICAL READING

Only reading what is in the original site.

LATERAL READING

Leave original site to see what others are saying about it.

- Other credible news sources
- Reputable private and governmental sources
- Wikipedia

Once information is verified, share with others!